ASSESSMENT OF PUBLIC LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA

Papers Presented at the National Seminar
March 3–6, 1986
(Sponsored by U. G. C.)

Edited By
P. Gangadhara Rao
K. S. Raghavan

Department of Library & Information Science
University of Madras
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NATIONAL SEMINAR ON

ASSESSMENT OF PUBLIC LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA

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NATIONAL SEMINAR ON

ASSESSMENT OF PUBLIC-LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA

March 3 - 6, 1986 Madras

(Sponsored by U.G.C.)

Organised by : Department of Library & Information Science
University of Madras, Madras-600 005.

PROGRAMME

3rd March 1986 : Monday

9-00 : 10-30 Hrs. : REGISTRATION OF DELEGATES
(At Department of Library &
Information Science,
University of Madras,
Madras- 600 005.)

11-00 Hrs. : INAUGURATION
(Venue: Seminar Hall
Dept. of Management
Studies,
University of Madras,
Madras-600 005.)

13-00 Hrs. : LUNCH

14-30 Hrs. : TECHNICAL SESSION- I

Theme: "Public Library Scenario"

Chairman: Mr.P.V.Verghese

Rapporteur: Dr.(Mrs.)K.Sarada

Presentation of Papers:

1. Dr.R.S. P.Singh: Public Library Development in Bihar.
2. Mr.W.D.Ratta: Public Libraries in Haryana
3. Dr.S.R.Ijari: Survey of Public Library Development in Karnataka.
4. Mr.V.Suryaprakash: Role of Public Libraries in the Changing Social & Educational Context.

16-00 Hrs. : COFFEE.

4th March 1986 : Tuesday

10-00 : 11-30 Hrs. : TECHNICAL SESSION - II

Theme: "Public Library Scenario" (Contd.)

Chairman: Prof.P.K.Patil

Rapporteur: Dr.Jagtar Singh

Presentation of Papers:

1. Dr.H.A.Khan : Assessment of Public Library Development"
2. Mr.M.Parameswaran: Role of Public Libraries in Changing educational and Social context.
3. Mr.C.Lianzama : Public Library Services in Mizoram
4. Mr.M.S.Subramanian: Assessment of Public Library Development in Tamil Nadu
5. Mr.R.K.Seethpathy: Towards a Dynamic & Radiant Public Library Movement in Tamil Nadu

11-30 Hrs. : COFFEE

11-45 : 13- 00 Hrs. : TECHNICAL SESSION- III

Theme: "Public Library Services"

Chairman: Dr.P.A.Mohanrajan

Rapporteur: Mr.Syed Ali Hashmin

Presentation of Papers:

1. Prof.P.K.Patil: Information Services: A Challenging task for public libraries
2. Prof.P.Gangadhara Rao: Rural Information Centres
3. Mr.Jagtar Singh: Rural Public Library Services in Punjab
4. Mr.P.Laxman Rao: Services in Govt. Libraries in Andhra Pradesh.
5. Mr. P.A. Mohanarajan

13-00 Hrs. : LUNCH

14-30 : 16- 00 Hrs. : <u>TECHNICAL SESSION - IV</u>

Theme: "Public Library Use Studies

Chairman: Prof.R.Sreepathy Naidu

Rapporteur: Mr.M.Parameswaran

<u>Presentation of Papers:</u>

1. Mrs.Manorama Srinath: Public Library Services in Madras : A Users' Survey
2. Mrs.A.Amudhavalli: Use of Fiction in a Public Library: A Case Study.

16-00 Hrs. : COFFEE

<u>5th March 1936 : Wednesday</u>

10-00 : 11-30 Hrs : <u>TECHNICAL SESSION - V</u>

Theme: "Public Library Vis-a-Vis Non-Formal Education"

Chairman: Mr.C.Manohar Rao

Rapporteur: Mr.R.K.Rout

<u>Presentation of Papers</u>

1. Dr. M.Shanmugam: Public Libraries and Distance Education
2. Dr.K.S.Raghavan: & Mr.P.Sankaralingam: Public Libraries and Challenge of Education
3. Dr.(Mrs.)K.Sarada : Public Libraries and Adult Education in Developing countries.
4. Mr. M.S.Subramaniam: Public Libraries in the Service of the Stud[ent] community of Open Universities in India: An Over[view]
5. Mr. C.A.Augustine: Role of the Public Library in the changing Social and Educational context.

11-30 Hrs. : COFFEE

11-45 : 13-00 Hrs : <u>TECHNICAL SESSION - VI</u>

Theme: "Research on Public Libraries & Staff Pattern"

Chairman: Prof.A.A.N.Raju

Rapporteur: Mr.C.Lianzama

Presentation of Papers:

1. Dr. H. A. Khan: Problems in the Assessment of Public Library Development in India

2. Dr. V. Venkatappiah: Staff pattern in a District Library Organisation

13-00 Hrs. : LUNCH

14-30 : 16-00 Hrs : **TECHNICAL SESSION - VII**

Theme: "Public Library Finance"

Chairman: Dr. ~~R.S.P. Singh~~ H.A. Khan

Rapporteur: ~~Mr. V.B. Hubli~~ Bavakutty

Presentation of Papers:

1. Mr. N. Guruswamy Naidu: Financingg Public Libraries: A case for cess

2. Mr. Syed Ali Hashmin: Public Library finance in Andhra Pradesh

3. Mr. G. Ma~nohara Rao: Augmenting Resources of Zilla Granthalaya Samsthas

4. Mr. M. N. Ramakrishnan & Mr. G. Devarajan: Public Library Finance in Kerala

16-00 Hrs. : COFFEE

6th March 1936 : Thursday

9-00 : 10-00 Hrs. : **CONCLUDING SESSION**

Chairman: Prof. P. Gangadhara Rao

Adaptation of Resolutions

10-15 Hrs. : COFFEE

10-30 Hrs. : VALEDICTORY FUNCTION.

DIRECTOR: PROF.P.GANGADHARA RAO,
PROFESSOR & HEAD,
DEPT. OF LIBRARY & INFORMATION SCIENCE,
UNIVERSITY OF MADRAS, MADRAS-600 005.

RAPPORTEUR GENERAL: Dr.K.S.RAGHAVAN

VENUE: SEMINAR HALL
DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT STUDIES
UNIVERSITY OF MADRAS, MADRAS-600 005.

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NATIONAL SEMINAR ON ASSESSMENT OF PUBLIC LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA

Inaugural Address

by

MALCOLM S ADISESHIAH

Chairman, Madras Institute of Development Studies, Madras

3 - 6 March, 1936

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PUBLIC LIBRARIES : AN ASSESSMENT

Malcolm S Adiseshiah**

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THE START

At this seminar on public libraries in India, talking to you Librarians of Public Libraries on the subject of public libraries is like carrying coals to New Castle. Not only do you know everything that is known on the subject, I feel that all that has to be said about public libraries - their scope, means of their establishment, their function, their staffing, their legislation and their financing - and all the words and rhetoric that have been poured forth to explain, expand and expound on their importance and their need in relation to national development and attaining the goal of universalisation and democratisation of education in our country - all this has been said and done over the last four decades for us in India, and for all countries in the world by Unesco, through its two Public Library Manifestoes in 1949 and 1972, to which we, both the government and public librarians, were enthusiastic subscribers.

And so as this is a seminar on assessment of public library development in India, I shall limit myself to the rather inconvenient and some what unpleasant task of asking ourselves how far we have carried out all that we have said about public

libraries in our country, in our states, in our districts, in our towns and villages over the past 4 decades, when we made these impressive decisions, and passed these unexceptionable resolutions on public libraries.

I have a feeling that we have not done much, that we have not matched our words with deeds, in the public library field.

NUMBERS

First I note that we do not seem to know how many public libraries there are in India. It may be my training as an economist that is responsible for it, but when I am asked to assess something, I must have some quantitative measurable dimensions before me. I find nowhere a clear statement about the number of public libraries in the country. Take Unesco's annual Statistical Year Book, for the latest year 1984. Of the 131 tables in the publication on education, science and culture, and communication, India appears in 130 tables. It is only in the table-7.3 on public libraries that India is absent. Or take the Annual Report for 1983-84, the last one that I have, of the Ministry of Education and Culture. There are a lot of words about "the Department of Culture taking a keen interest in the country's public library movement programme by providing full finance support". Under the Raja Ram Mohan Roy Library Foundation, there is a reference to "Rs.49.12 lakhs of assistance being given to 2000 public libraries in 1983-84 and Rs.236.16 lakhs being

expended in 1972-73 to 1982-83 covering 17,084 libraries at different levels" whatever that means. (What it does mean is that the Foundation gave an average of Rs.2456 in 1983-84 to each of the 2000 public libraries and Rs.190/- to each of the 17084 public libraries during the decade 1972-73 to 1982-83. If I was the government, I would be ashamed of reporting this starving of the public libraries). Nowhere, however, is there any report on the number of public libraries either for the country as a whole, or by states as there are for schools, colleges, food-grains production, etc. The 1985 National Policy on Library and Information System: a Draft Policy statement issued by the Raja Ram Mohan Roy Library Foundation and the Indian Library Association, after making the sententious statement "information is considered to be a base resource for national development", proceeds to give no information on the number or the status of public libraries in the country. There is a whole paragraph on what the central and state governments and voluntary organisations should do "to extend public library facilities", but from what numerical base is not stated. There is even a rather inane target of reaching a 6 per cent of the education budget of each state and union territory on public libraries, without any indication of how this magic figure was arrived at.

There are some figures on public libraries given in the 1956 publication, Public Libraries for Asia, where India is reported to have 24,086 public libraries points. Similarly in the 1968

publication, Free Book Service for all, Edited by S.R.Ranganathan, .Neelameghan and A.K.Gupta there are library targets given for each state. (Incidentally for a non librarian like me, I found [illegible] through these publications with their very special, and I suppose, very orthodox classification of paragraphs, quite confusing). Unesco's latest publication, Public Libraries Systems 1982, speaks of 28,000 public libraries and reading rooms in 1974 in India. What is lacking is a clear upto date figure on Public Libraries in India, on some kind of uniform and comparable base.

The need for such quantification is not only to fill the scandalous gap in the Annual Unesco Statistical Year Book, where as I have said, India is absent in the world public libraries table (Table-7.3), making it impossible to compare ourselves with similarly placed countries and their public library movements - like China, Brazil, Indonesia etc.

This is not to say that we in the public libraries in India can or should copy all that is happening in the public library development in other (industrialised) countries. For instance, there is at the moment a fierce controversy in the United States public library movement over what they call programming by public libraries. The word programming is used by them to refer to the programme of teas, dinners, excursions, bridge and other competitions, musical and sports evenings etc organised by the public libraries, apparently to attract members of the local community to the library, in the hope that they may then also use

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the books and journals facilities of the library. We have a saying in this part of the country in Tamil, that you do not need to be given monetary incentives to eat sugar cane. Apparently in the United States and other industrial countries you have to pay people to eat sugar cane. For us in the public library movement in India our needs are much more basic, which are first to establish a library for each town and group of villages, and second to stock them with appropriate books, journals, and audio visual materials. Our communities are waiting for this kind of minimum facility.

There is one coloumn in the Unesco table - the last coloumn - which gives the percentage of population served by the public libraries in the country which is very revealing and is highly correlated to the country's educational development. I wish we had that information for India. Such a publication of the number of public libraries, which in any domestic publication of ours, will have to be state by state, because libraries are a state subject, will enable us to identify and agree upon the states and union territories which are backward in public libraries, as we have identified the 9 states which are backward in elementary education and the 6 states which are lagging in foodgrains production. It would then be possible to concentrate our very limited union funds for public library development on those backward states and union territories, and not spread the funds so thinly as we do today over all our states, that they are

like a drop of water in an ocean, with not even a ripple effect as a consequence.

LEGISLATION

Another area in which we are lagging after over 40 years of public library development, is in the matter of public library legislation.

According to Mr. Neelameghan, the possibility of legislation for public libraries was first conceived by S.R.Ranganathan in 1925 and after several attempts, the then Madras Presidency was the first to adopt the library Act in 1948, followed by Andhra Pradesh (1960), Karnatka (1965), Maharashtra (1967) and West Bengal (1979). The first four states to adopt library legislation was first reported in the 1968 publication, Free Book Service for all, again reported in the 1973 seminar on the Public Library System, and in the 1982 Unesco publication, Developing Public Library System and Services. (Why the latest state to adopt public library legislation, West Bengal in 1979, does not appear in the Unesco 1982 publication is because we do not inform Unesco of our latest development).

In other words, this means that over 75 per cent of the country is not covered by any legislation for public libraries, and I have a feeling that after S.R.Ranganathan, the momentum for public library legislation has disappeared. That is, for near two decades there has been no move to push forward public

library legislation in any state. (West Bengal owes its legislation to S.R.Ranganathan who visited it and made 3 attempts in 1930, 1958 and 1966 to get the law passed which happened 49 years after his first attempt). The reasons for this paralysis are worth examination and study by the Associations, perhaps through an expert group. The resulting recommendations might also suggest the steps to be taken in each state to reactivate the public library legislative movement.

Why is it urgent to reactivate the public library legislative movement? Among the four reasons given by UNESCO'S Frank Gardner for public library legislation, I regard the financial reason as for us in India the most important. Leaving the financing of public libraries to the whims and fancies of the annual budget making processes in our states will result in the kind ad-hoc financial decisions for public libraries that we have today. When the the annual budget is being framed, the social services occupy a low priority when it comes to sharing the resources for the year, and public libraries being on a low rung in this low priority area get usually what is left over, which is not much. Further when there is a call to economise, the public library budget which is already more than half starved at the budget formulation stage, is the first to be cut and so further driven into a famished stage. Here clear legislative provisions, with no optional clauses, providing for the state

taxes and particularly local cesses to be levied by local authority are the means of feeding financially and regularly the public library movement. Hence the need to push forward once more legislation in this area, so that library finance rests on solid and firm legal provisions, and not on the personal donviction or lack of conviction of the political leadership or the official view points in the state concerned.

CONTENTS

The contents of a public library will be/should be related to the readers it serves. Here our library in the urban centre seem to attract educated lower middle class, rather oldish readers, and that is why the library is fairly well stocked with books and popular journals and nesspapers. According to Unesco's Statistical Year Book 1984, India produces an average of 12,000 titles a year, over half being in the area of the arts, social sciences and religion. The problem here is to get the urban library to cater to a wider audience - young people, who will be attracted if books and journals catering to their tastes are available, schools, if there is a good and attractive school books section, and children, if there is a separate children's reading (and playing) section. This kind of diversification of the readership of our fairly well equipped urban libraries is urgently needed and can be ensured within our urban resources.

On rural public libraries, I have very little information beyond the target set forth in the Madras Public Libraries Act - of each village with a population between 1000 and 5000 having one delivery station, and of each contiguous group of three hamlets, each having a population of less than 1000, one delivery station. I would like to have more upto date information on our rural library system and programme.

There are, however, two issues on the content of Rural Libraries - whatever may be their particular form, which I wish to bring to your attention.

First with the National Adult Education Programme which we launched in 1978, we are adding 5 million literates per annuam, 90 per cent of whom are rural women, and those belonging to the scheduled castes and tribes. If the mass campaign to eradicate illiteracy proposed in the New Educational Policy now under formulation takes effect, this number will double next year, treble the year after and quadruple in the following year. In fact, the short 6 month literacy programme is being followed everywhere by a 12-18 months post literacy programme. The challenge that this post literacy programme poses for the rural public library movement is for the book mobiles, the booke vans, the book shelves to be stocked to the extent of atleast 50 percent by materials which the new literates (the woman, the tribal, the scheduled caste person, who have just learnt the 3Rs.

can read. This means that (a) the book selection policy of the village library service must be reviewed every 6 months in the light of what the new literates expect of it and want from it; (b) the book selection should involve non fiction materials presented as not too boring facts about cows and cabbages, of water, land use and of having only 2 children per family, but presented in accordance with the adult's thinking, interest and fancy; (c) the book or reading materials selection should include fiction, with emphasis on variety rather than on many copies of the same book; and (d) the book selection should include rural newspapers and local journals in order to inform the rural newly literate adult about what is happening in his district and country, in which his urban counterpart is well versed. In other words, the call to the rural public library is to gear its functioning to meet the reading needs of the emerging new literate masses. This is not an easy task, but I see little signs of even a beginning being made here.

The second point that I wish to raise with you is that it is the rural public libraries, rather than the urban ones, which should be equipped with a sound section - films, films-strips, tapes, cassettes etc; there is a continuing debate in the educational world on the question whether the illiterate must be first made literate before he learns how to grow more rice, or wheat, or cotton, or groundnuts, how to safeguard his

his land and prevent its exhaustion and erosion, how to avoid impure water, and guard against malaria etc; or can the illiterate be taught these matters directly by oral means, or even better by audio visual means. Learning his 3Rs, learning to read the word, it is held, is not the only means of becoming capable of reading the world in which the adult lives. Oral communications have existed long before written ones and oral communications can be used for acquiring and disseminating knowledge. My view is that, as in many other such controversies, this is not a case of either or, - either learning to read or hearing the word. Both are needed and both can and should be attained, if we are not going to have a new dualism in our country - those who can read and acquire knowledge, and those who see visuals or hear speeches and acquire knowledge. We need people who can learn and are learning the 3Rs, and even as they are doing that, to gain knowledge on their lives through sound. This view is succinctly set forth in the concluding para of an article on electro books by T.K.S.Iyengar and Shankaranaryanana: Towards end of this century a remarkable progress would have been made in the information field. New "reference books" will emerge, both in the form of electrobooks and in the form of data banks accessible or converted from print on paper to electronic books, dictionaries directories, bibliographies and concordances, a development that will continue throughout the 1990s and on to the 21st century. The future depends on how libraries as back up

resource centres develop and get support to match with modernisation! I regard the stacking of films, tapes, cassettes in the rural library on all matters which concern the rural adult, the status of women, the wage system, the public distribution system, the exploitation to which the poor are subjected by the overbearing landlord, the extortionate money lender, and the greedy official as well as the means of increasing his agricultural produce or cottage industry product, health, education etc - I regard the sound section of the rural library to be as important as the books and reading materials sections. Can we turn our attention to this and get our creative artists, film producers, cassette recorders to produce this audio visual material needed by our rural public library audience, so that our book mobiles, delivery vans etc might have a sound section, as they have reading sections. On this again we have not made a start in this. Let us make one.

It is with these somewhat worrisome but challenging thoughts and with faith and hope that the seminar will help in closing some of the gaps in the public library system, and meet the urgent needs of the present and potential users of the system, that I take pleasure in inaugurating this "National Seminar on the Assessment of the Public Library Development in India ".

PUBLIC LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT IN BIHAR

R.S.P.Singh**

1 BACKGROUND : LIBRARIES IN ANCIENT AND MEDIEVAL BIHAR

The tradition of learning in Bihar has been strong since ancient times and libraries have always been considerĕd necessary and vital appendages of learning. Nalanda, Vikramashila and Odantpuri could be mentioned as some of the important centres of learning in ancient Bihar and these centres of learning had their own libraries. Out of these, only a few could be defined as public library in the modern sense of the term. The Nalanda University was a world renowned seat of learning with a well equipped library. As described by the Chinese Traveller Itsing, one finds that Nalanda had at one time between 3,000 to 10,000 bhikku monks. Students from various parts of India and abroad-Tibet, China and Korea assembled in Nalanda for acquiring knowledge. This University had a well equipped library and was housed in a 9 storeyed building. The total collection of this library was divided in three separate apartments, namely 'Ratnaranjaka', 'Ratnasagara' and 'Ratnodadhi'. The Gupta dynasty had assigned the revenue of many villages for maintenance of Nalanda. With the destruction of Nalanda and Vikramashila the traditions of public libraries can be said to have dissappeared.

** Librarian, Sinha Library (Bihar State Central Library), Patna - 800 001.

This state particularly Pataliputra is proud of having a very big library in a Budhist monastery in Budhist age and of which a mention has been made.

During medieval period it were the temples, muths, madarshas and Khanquahs which remained the seats of education and learning with their own libraries.

During this period a big Madarsha existed on the bank of river Ganga at Azimabad (Patna City) where a huge collection of persian and arabic books were available. The remains of the Madarsha and a magnificent building are still in existence. Beside them there were private collection of books with the poets and nobalities. The Muzabia Khauquah of Phulwarisharif, the Imadia of Patna City, Khalifabagh of Bhagalpur and Ishlampur, possessed, good libraries of rare books and manuscripts. It is significant to note that Bihar has got the treasure of Sanskrit, Urdu and Persian manuscripts and books scattered in different villages and towns of Bihar.

2 LIBRARIES IN MODERN BIHAR

Modern Bihar has also played a very memorable role in the field of Education and Library Movement.

The ministry in Bihar formed after the India Act of 1935 tried to re-organise the whole methods and function of education. The most notable achievement was the mass literacy movement which was organised by the Hon'ble Dr.Syed Mahmood,

Minister of Education for eradicating adult illiteracy and spreading enlightment among the masses and this made a good progress with the help of about 14000 volunteers drawn from students community, inspecting staff of Education Department and other social workers. More than 12000 literacy centre were started with an average attendance of $1\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs per term of six weeks. This movement also spread to the jails and almost every prisoner who was in the jail during that period was made literate.

In 1938 the Bihar Library Association presented a draft scheme for the development of libraries in Bihar to the state government. This scheme contemplated the establishment of a network of libraries throughout Bihar. The scheme was accepted by the Ministry of Education but however it did not provide for annual grant before 1937. There existed nothing like rural library service in our province. But the efforts of Mr. Gopinath Verma, one District Inspector of Schools will always be remembered in this direction who had devised such scheme. There were 12 Sub-Inspectors under him and he supplied each Sub-Inspector with a box of 100 books on different subjects from the fund of District Board. About 4000 village libraries were established in Bihar in connection with mass literacy campaign.

Realising the importance of public library service as a necessary concomitance of democracy and with a view to eradicate the burning problem of illiteracy, the Government of Bihar has taken steps to establish, develop and strengthen public libraries at different levels. Such libraries established so far in Divisions, Districts, Sub-Divisions, blocks and villages provide opportunities to the reading community for life along self educatio and carrying the torch of knowledge and learning. Thus public libraries in this state are scattered right from state capital to villages.

3 STATE CENTRAL LIBRARY

The Smt.Radhika Sinha Institute and Sachchidananda Sinha Library was converted to the status of the State Central Library by a Deed of Agreement between the Trustees of the Library and the Government of Bihar on the 24th November, 1955.

This library stands as a noble monument not only of a happy conjugal relationship but also as a sense of genuine goodwill and service for the community . It possesss a grand repository of valuable cultural treasures and has made highly significant contributions to the cause of education in this historic state by catering to the needs of teachers, students, scholars and enlightened members of the public. It is significant to mention that the Library is utilised with considerable profit by research scholars of different Universities of India and abroad. Some research scholars from countries

like Germany, Australia, Canada, United Kingdom and U.S.A. used in this Library for study and research. Besides its varied collections of up-to-date books on different subjects, the library has a rich store of journals, periodicals, newspapers old and current, which are not available in any other library in the region and which are of considerable importance for studies and research. In the words of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru - This library is undoubtedly something of which Patna should be proud. • Mr. Horace I. Poliman, Chief, India Section, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. had visited this Library on 18th March, 1947 and mentioned - "This Library is one of the finest public libraries in India. I was particularly interested in the excellence of Indian collections. There are many books on India which the Library of Congress would be proud to own, and which are owned by this library. The citizens of Patna can be proud of this distinguished collections".

Now the total collection of this library has reached one lakh fifty thousand with staff strength of 37 in all.

The library has various sections - (a) Reading Room, (b) Lending Section (c) Local Literature Section (d) Children Section (e) Braille Section, (f) Research Sections etc. to cater to the needs of the reading public. A magnificent building is under contruction to enlarge its various activities.

During the last five years the Government have spent more than 20 lakhs in different heads on the management and development of this library. The details are given below:

Fiancial Year	Establishment	Non-Plan Books Magazines and Furniture	Plan Books Magazines & Furniture	Building Fund	Total
1980-81	2,37,305-65	64,694-35	28,000-00	-	3,30,000-00
1981-82	2,95,000-00	55,000-00	48,000-00	2,00,000	5,98,000-00
1982-83	3,20,431-00	55,000-00	-	-	3,75,431-00
1983-84	3,08,278-00	24,307-00	-	-	3,32,585-00
1984-85	3,02,310-00	30,275-00	48,000-00	-	3,80,585-00
Total	14,63,324-65	2,29,276-35	1,24,000-00	2,00,000	20,16,601-00

4 DIVISIONAL AND DISTRICT LIBRARIES

Since there are 10 divisions in the state, there will be public libraries located at each divisional headquarters except Patna division where State Central Library is already there in existence. At present there are only two divisional libraries because the District Central Libraries located at seven district headquarters, which have become the divisional headquarters due to creation of new divisions, have not been converted into divisional libraries.

In the year 1953-54 of First Five Year Plan libraries were established in all the 17 district headquarters of the state

with an intention to setup a complete net-work of library organisation from the state central library down to the village libraries and to establish a system of close co-ordination and co-operation between the libraries at different levels.

Now there are 38 districts in the state out of which ten district headquarters have been converted into divisional headquarters. Consequently there will be 28 libraries against which we have 25 district libraries uptill now. Thus remaining three public libraries located at the newly created district headquarters have not been converted into district libraries.

In district librqries group - there are two types of administrative set up (a) Government district libraries (b) Aided District Libraries.

Out of 25 district libraries, 5 district libraries called as 'District State Libraries' were established by the government and are pure government libraries. The remaining 20 district libraries called as 'District Central Library' are government aided libraries. These libraries get annual grants for establishment, purchase of books and journal and contingencies. The government has created seven posts for each District State Library and four posts for each District Central Library.

5 SUB-DIVISIONAL LIBRARIES

The total number of Sub-divisions is 83 (Eighty-three).

been established and therefore 20 (twenty) sub-divisional libraries are yet to be established because 38 (thirty eight) Sadar Sub-Divisionals will have no sub-divisional libraries as District Libraries already exist there.

These libraries get annual grants from the State Government for establishment, purchase of books and journals and contingencies. The Government has also created two posts (a) Librarian (b) Sorter, for each Sub-Divisional Libraries.

6 BLOCK LIBRARIES

Out of 585 blocks in the state 440 block libraries have been setup as block libraries so far. Besides the sets of selected books the government sanction a sum of Rs.300/- per block per year. All these libraries are aided libraries. The Government is eager to setup block libraries in the remaining 148 blocks.

7 VILLAGE LIBRARIES

As per the Directory of the Public Libraries in Bihar published in the year 1966 by the Government of Bihar, a total number of 4422 village libraries existed in the state. But according to a later report now the number of such libraries is 4000 only. These libraries get grants mainly in the form of books selected and purchased by the Government under the scheme of central purchase and Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation. The Government used to sanction the grants for construction and

repairs of building and furniture also. But this is not regular. The village libraries in the state have been classified in two groups (A & B) according to their strength i.e. building, land, number of books, furniture, number of membership, average attendance daily etc.

The total amount of grant in aid to these village public libraries is sanctioned according to the criteria fixed by the stage government.

8 MOBILE & CHILDREN LIBRARIES

The schemes of Mobile Libraries and Childrens Libraries were introduced in 17 District Libraries in 1956 i.e. during First Five Year Plan period. The aim of introducing the scheme of Mobile Library service was to make available the reading materials to the community living far from the district headquarters where good libraries did not exist. For this purpose the government provided 17 mobile vans for all the District Libraries and created the post of one Librarian, one driver and one cleaner. The state government used to sanction a sum of Rs.7,630/- p.m.per unit for pay to staff, fuel and contingencies, till the closure of the scheme. This service continued till 1975. Now there is no more mobile library service in the state.

The scheme of childrens libraries was also introduced in 1956 and continued till 1975 as a separate wing in all the 17 district libraries. The government allowed to appoint only part time staff for this section.

9 STATE LIBRARY PLANNING COMMITTEE

At the instance of the Rajarammohun Roy Library Foundation Bihar have set up state library planning committee consisting of 11 members including Minister of Education as its Chairman. The others members are:-The Education Commissioner, Director Higher Education, Joint Secretary (Education), Dr. Bechan - Pr siden., Bihar Rajya Pustakalaya Sangh, Dr. R.S.P.Singh, Librarian, Bihar State Central Library, Dr. I. K. Jha, Dr. R.S.Mishra, Dr. Zahiruddin, Superintendent of Libraries and Dr. B.P.Barua Director, RRM RLF.

The functions of the State Library Planning Committee are:-

(a) To ensure regular payment of state contribution to and sanction of regular matching grants to the foundation.

(b) To scrutinise and recommend proposals for assistance to the foundation.

(c) To select books for State Central Libraries, Divisional Libraries, District Libraries, Sub-divisional Libraries, Block Libraries, Village Libraries and Special Libraries according to the needs of the community and in confirmity with the guidelines by the foundation.

(d) To select the names of Public Libraries to be assisted by the foundation.

(e) To distribute the books etc. to the selected libraries.

(f) any other activity for developing library movement.

Due to the assistance of RRMLF the position of books collection in public libraries has improved to a large extent. During the last five years commencing from 1978-79 to 1983-84 a total sum of Rs. 30,17,332/- was spent mainly on books including a small sum of Rs.16,200/- on furniture. The books selected & purchased by the State Planning Committee were distributed among the selected Public Libraries of the state. The details are as below:-

NUMBER AND DETAILS OF THE LIBRARIES THAT RECEIVED ASSISTANCE

Year	Amount	S.C.L	DCL & Dt.Lib Spl.	Sub. Div.	Block Libr-ries	Village Libra-ries	Assistance Total Lib-raries.
1978-79	4,29,497-75	1	31 - 7	25	110	200	364
1979-80	4,08,999-25	1	31 - 7	25	210	310	564
1980-81	6,04,984-60	1	31 - 7	25	113	310	487
1981-82	4,34,879-50	1	31 - 7	25	175	310	549
1982-83	6,60,317-50	1	31 - 7	25	175	310	549
1983-84	4,78,653-50	1	31 - 7	26	100	394	559
	30,17,332-10						

During 7th Five Year Plan period it has been proposed by the State Planning Committee to supply T.V. Sets and Photo-copier to all District Libraries and State Central Library. The State Committee has also agreed to enhance the matching share from 2 lakhs to 5 lakhs per year for this scheme with effect from financial year 1985-86.

10 BIHAR RAJYA PUSTAKALAYA SANGH

"Bihar Library Association" and thereafter named as "Bihar Prantiya Pustakalaya Sangh" came into existence in 1936. In October 1937 a conference was organised with Dr.Sachchidananda Sinha as President and Shri Rai Mathura Prasad and Shri Ganga Pd. Towary as its Secretaries. The 5th Library Conference of the Association was held at Bhagalpur on 26.10.51 under the Presidentship of Prof.Jagannath Pd.Mishra, Sri Siya Ram Singh, a veteran freedom fighter was Chairman of Receiption Committee. After the conference at Bhagalpur new life was inspired into the Association. It was re-organised on planned line and the Association Headquarters was established in Patna with its branches all over the State at District, Sub-Divisional and thana level. By the year 1952 about 4000 village libraries were established and out of them about 3000 were registered with the Association. The annual conference of the Association was held regularly upto 1961.

The contribution of Sri Indra Deo Narain Sinha, General Secretary of the Association will always be remembered. His contribution to this Association were manifold.

After the death of Shri I.N.Sinha, the Association elected a well known political leader Shri Nitishwar Pd. Sinha as its General Secretary. Shri Sinha tried his best to make the Association active and purposeful and he succeeded in this noble cause. But the situation changed when he became the State Minister of Education. On his initiative an adhoc committee was formed with Shri Vidyakar Kavi as its President. Shri Kavi also worked sincerely for the betterment of this Association but Shri Kavi also regined due to his inclusion in the Cabinet.

After his resignation Shri Jagannath Pd.Sah, one of the leader of Library Movement in the .tate was made the President and Shri Nitishwar Pd.Sinha as its General Secretary in November 1976. Shri Jagannath Pd.Sah and Shri Nitishwar Pd.Sinha continued as President and General Secretary of the Association till 6th April, 1980. The 13th conference of the Association was held in Patna on the 5th and the 6th April, 1980 in which Dr.Bechan was unanimously elected as a President and Dr.R.S.P. Singh as General Secretary. After this district units were set up in all the districts. In this conference top State Government officials and eminent library scientists of the country like Prof.P.N.Kaula and Shri B.L.Bhardwaj participated. The constitution of the Association was amended and approved in this conference.

The Association had a new lease of life after this conference. About 2,000 libraries were affiliated with the Association within a short time.

The 14th Conference was held in Silao (Nalanda) on 15 and 16th November,1981. The Conference was inaugurated by Shri Radha Nandan Jha, Speaker - Bihar Vidhan Sabha & Dr. Bechan presided. About two thousand delagates participated in the conference. A seminar on the "Needs of Library Legislation" was also organised. Dr.B.P. Barua, Member Secretary of the Raja Ram Mohun Roy Library Foundation & Dr. Dr.R.S.P. Singh, Librarian, State Central Library Presented the papers on this topic. The conference was a grand success. Now the Association has got its branches in every district and many sub-divisions but still the Association has to work hard to achieve its objectives.

11 I. L. A. ACTIVITIES IN BIHAR

On the invitation of the Bihar Rajya Pustakalaya Sangh the Conference of the Indian Library Association was held twice in patna once in 1949 and again in 1964. The 4th Patna Conference of All India Library Association held in 1940, was crowned with success due to able guidance of late Dr. Sachchidananda Sinha, Charman, Reception Committee. There some very important resolutions were passed.

(a) Such as "to abolish the system of part-time or honorary librarians in the University Libraries and to appoint full time

paid Librarians."

(b) "The Central and Provincial Government and the Inidan states be requested to create the Department of Libraries for establishment, maintenance and extension of Library services and to extend facilities to the public." The library movement in the State was further geared up after this conference. But it is a pity to note that the recommendations of the Indian Library Association to create the Dept. of Libraries have not been put into action as yet in this state. The 14th Conference of Indian Library Association was held 2nd time in 1964 at patna. On this occasion two distinctive seminars one on 'Library Legislation' and other on 'Development of Libraries in the 4th Five year plan' were organised. Dr.D.N.Marshall presided and Sri M.C.Chagla, the then Union Education Minister inaugurated the conference. The 14th All Indian Library Conference affected a major change in its set up. In this conference Shri P.N.Gour the then Librarian of the Sinha Library was elected president. Shri D.R.Kalia, Director, Delhi Public Library was elected Secretary and Shri R.S.P.Singh the then Asstt. Librarian of Sinha Library as Asstt. Secretary The Secretariat was transferred from Calcutta to Delhi with the Senior Vice-President Sri B.S.Kesavan.

In order to decentralize the activities of the Indian Library Association, State Committees have been set up in all the State of India. In Bihar also the state

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Committee has been set up under the Chairmanship of Dr.R.S.P.Singh. It is gra i ying to note that the State Committee is very active and is making all efforts to raise the standard of library zxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx n zxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx service as well as the status of library personnel. The library movement in this state has been activised again with the united efforts of all the Librarians, library workers and Library Association members.

12 LIBRARIANSHIP TRANING COURSE

At present the Education Department is sepe spending 9000/- per annum on librarianship training course. The post-graduate certificate course is of 3 months duration and held once in a year in Sinha Library Campus in order to meet the demand for more sub-professional and Junior personnel for different types of libraries. The seat is limited to 70 only per year.

So far 1400 graduate trainees have received the certificate of post-graduate training of library course from the State Government of Bihar. The Under-graduate courses of one month are held once in a year at four Divisional Head-quarters, Patna, Muzafarpur, Bhagalpur and Ranchi. The seat is limited to 50 only per centre per year. So far 3020 students(approx)have recieved their training in one month librarianship course. Successful students of the Certificate

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course in Library science have oppootunity of their employment in schools and colleges, Public Libraries, Government Departmental libraries and Public sectors in sub-personnel and Junior positions.

13. LIBRARY LEGISLATION IN BIHAR

The Government of Bihar directed the Librarian of the Sinha Library Dr.R.S.P. Singh in the year 1973 to submit a draft of public Library Bill to state Government. The draft was considered by a duly constituted sub-committee consisting of some eminent librarians of the State including Dr.PN.Gour, Dr.A.R.Bdar, Dr.R.S.P.SIngh, etc. Buth the state Governments effort in this direction is not much encouraging and the matter is still pending. The Leaders of the State like Dr.Jagannath Mishra, (ex chief Minister), Shri Guneshwar Pd.Singh (Ex State Education Minister) & Prof. Nagendra Jha (Ex. Education Minister) took interest in this matter but could not get sucess due to frequent changes of the Government. But still the people in Library Profssion are continuing their efforts.

14. FINANCING OF LIBRARY SERVICE

The Library Service in the State is mainly financed by the grants rceeieved from the state Govt. The state government provides the funds from Non Plan & Planhead to meet the expenditures on various heads-like establishment, contingencies, purchase of books & magazines, & furniture

building construction & repairs etc.

During the year 1985-86 a sum of Rs.53,33,500-00 xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx only has been allocated, but keeping in view the various needs of the Libraries and their members the amount is not adequate.

The main items of expenditures incurred in the last five years are given below:-

Year	Div. Lib	Dist Lib	SDL	SPl Lib	Block Lib	Non Plan	P	Plan
1980-81	2	23	24	6	440	Rs.5,16,000-00		-
1981-82	2	24	25	6	435	Rs.6,66,300-00		-
Do	x	28	16	7	32	-- -		5,11,500/-
1982-83	2	24	25	6	431	Rs.6,64,500-00		-
1983-84	2	14	--	5	-	Rs.5,75,600-00		-
&								
1984-85		5	17					
Do	x	15	9	6+1	-	---		2,69,000/-
Total:-						Non Plan Rs.24,22,400/-		
						Plan Rs. 7,80,500/-		

Besides the above grants in aid sanctioned to the aided Libraries for establishment, purchase of books & contingencies etc., building grants as well as furniture grants were also sanctioned. The details are as below:-

Year	Building Cons.	Building repairs	Furniture.
1980-81	2,09,900-00	x	24,000-00
1981-82	2,41,900-00	21,000-00	20,500-00
1982-83	x	21,000-00	20,500-00
Total	4,51,800-00	42,000-00	65,000-00

The grants for building & furniture have not been sanctioned since 1982-83 to the village libraries.

15 ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

There is no separate Directorate for Library service in the state. The Library service at Government level is looked after by the Education Commissioner who is overall incharge of Education in Bihar. As a matter of fact the superintendent of Libraries obtains recommendations from the District Education Officers and Bihar Rajya Pustakalaya Sangh in respect of proposals relating to the development of librariesfor sanction of different grants and forwards them to the Director of Higher Education- who is also incharge of public Library service at the Directorate level. The proposals when received in the Secretariat are examined by a Deputy Director who submits the file to the Director of Higher Education. The Director of Higher Education then obtains the order of the Education Commissioner through the Joint secretary and after obtaining the Government orders the same is communicated to the Superintendent of Libraries for implementation.

There is a District Advisory Committee in each district headed by the District Magistrate to look after the distributions of grants.

16 CONCLUSION

Keeping in view the importance of Libraries, it is

therefore necessary to modernise them and due importance has to be given to the public library services. At present the public library services are being starved for want of funds as not even one per-cent of total educational budget is being spent on public libraries. In view of the perspective given above in respect of coverage and . services of public library movement in India the central government and Bihar government should achieve the target of spending at least 5% of the educational budget for growth and development of public libraries. The Central government should supplement the resources of the State government for modernization and expansion of public library services. The other points in this regard may be mentioned as follows:-

1. The implementation of Library Legislation in each state is essential for proper development of public library services. The government must give first priority to this subject.

2. A suitable machinery at the national as well as state level be constituted for the purpose of co-ordinating the programmes of formal and non-formal education and library departments. For this purpose a National Institute of Library services may be opened.

3. There should be short term & long term public library development plans for all district, sub-divisional and block libraries.

4. Special care should be taken by the state government for preservation of rare books& manuscripts.

5. Book grants to libraries should be increased in proportion to rise in pricesof books.

6. Reprographic and micrographic services be provided in the libraries at least upto the District level in first phase to improve the quality of library services.

7. One full time paid staff in each block & aided village libraries be appointed.

8. Minimum standard for aided public libraries be fixed.

9. Linkage of public libraries with follow up programmes of adult education is essential.

10. The library should function as a cultural centre and also as an information centre.

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APPENDIX

BIHAR : STATISTICAL DATA

A) Area : 1,73,877 Sq.KM.

B) Population 6 Crores, 99 Lakhs, 14 Thousands and 734 (as per 1981 census)

C) Density of population per Sq.KM: 402

D) Literacy percentage: 26.20%

1. Male 38.11
2. Female 13.62

C) Budget of the State: 1985-86

1. Total Budget on Education : Rs.35,33,500-00
2. Total Budget on Libraries :
   Plan Rs. 8,00,000-00
   Non-Plan Rs.27,33,500-00

F) Libraries:

Location	Number	No.of Libraries
Patna (Capital)	1	1 (State Central Library)
Divisions	10	2
Districts	30	25
Sub-Divisions	83	25
Blocks	588	440
Villages	67,566	4,000
Towns	220	N.A.
Panchayats	11,678	N.A.

BIHAR

A) Area : 1,73,876 sq.km.

B) Population 5 Crores, 63 Lakhs, 14 Thousands and 210 (Census 1971).

C) Density of population per Sq.KM: [illegible]

D) Literacy percentage: 26.20%

1. Male 36.11
2. Female 13.68

E) Budget of the State [illegible]

1. Total Budget on Education : Rs. [illegible]
2. Total Budget on Libraries : [illegible]

F) Libraries

Location	Number	No. of Libraries
Patna (Capital)	1	1 (State Central Library)
Districts	17	[illegible]
[illegible]	50	[illegible]
Subdivisions	85	[illegible]
Blocks	587	[illegible]
Villages	67,566	[illegible]
Towns	229	N.A.
Panchayats	11,078	N.A.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN HARYANA

W.D.RATTA*

1 INTRODUCTION

One obligation resting upon every public institution in a democracy is that of standing ready at all times to render an account of itself to the people and to show cause, as to why they should support it. No institution is so big that its right to existence is beyond challenge. The Public Library is not exempted from this rule. It is the function of an open door. It is a way to escape from the narrow areas of our individual line into the field. It is a public institution, which means that responsibility of its existence is dual. Its operation is in the hands of public servants who are specialists. Its support is in the hands of public tax payers. It is the responsibility of the operating personnel not only to see that the open door shall remain open, but also that it shall be inviting.

The functions of the public library are manifold. It has to facilitate informal self education to all people in the community. It has to enrich and further develop the subjects on which the individuals are undertaking formal education. It has to meet the informal needs of all and to support the educational, civic and cultural activities of groups and organisation for their recreation and cultural use of their leisure time.

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* State Librarian, Ambala Cantt.

Public Library Services should be made available to every individual, as it has a positive programme of guidance in the use of educational, informational and recretational materials. It has to sponsor or co-sponsor group activities within the frame work of its own programme.

Inspite of the important place, that the public libraries occupy as an effective instrument in the economical, cultural, educational and spiritual development of both individual and the society, unfortunately in our country, neither the people, nor the persons in power are conscious of this important aspect, the public library may play. This holds good for the State of Haryana. The Public Library Services are in no way better than other states where public library acts have not been enacted.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES - DEVELOPMENT

It was on 1st November, 1966 that after the bifurcation of Punjab the State of Haryana came into existence. At the time of bifurcation Haryana had only two Public Libraries i.e. one at Amabala and the other at Narnaul District, Mohindergarh. Within a period of 19 years, Haryana could cover 8 more districts by establishing District Libraries at the District Headquarters, namely Hissar (1967), Gurgaon (1970), Rohtak (1970) Jind (1971), Bhiwani (1976), Sonepat (1980), Karnal (1984) and Sirsa (1984). At the time of its birth, Haryana had no State Central Library of its own. So to fill up the gap the already existing District library, Amabala, which

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was established during 1957, was upgraded to the State Central Library during the year 1967. The remaining two Districts of Haryana, namely, Kurukshetra and Faridabad are likely to be covered with District Library during the next financial year. Although the State made a tremendous progress in the field of rural electrification, metalled roads, agricultural products and transport in a short duration, yet the progress in the development of public libraries, both qualitatively and quantitatively remained least satisfactory.

Besides the above ten public libraries directly under the administrative control of Director of Higher Education, some other small libraries, serving as Public Libraries are also functioning in the State of Haryana. Number of such small libraries being run by local self government Public Relation Department or by some Private agencies is not more than one hundred

USER POPULATION

According to 1981 census the population of Haryana was 12,850,902. It formed 1.75% of the total population of the country. In terms of literacy, the state of Haryana in 1981 had the 19th ppsition, whereas it was 20th in 1971. A comparative study of literate population for the year 1971 and 1981 indicates that though the percentage of literacy has improved over a period of ten years, yet the number of illiterate has increased.

		1971	1981
Population	:	10,036,308	12,850,902
Literates	:	2,699,179	4,605,649
Illiterates	:	7,337,629	8,245,253
Percentage of Literate to the total population	:	26.89%	35.84%

(Statistics collected from Haryana Economic and Statistical Planning Department)

In regard to the user population, in public libraries, are concerned, the position is not much promising. Out of 12 Districts only 9 Districts have District Libraries and the 10th a State Central Library. More or less they are functioning as City Libraries, because their membership, which is against a security Deposit of Rs.30/- for Government and Semi-Government. employees and Rupees 50/- from non-government employees is limited only to the population of the xwx town, where it is located. No library has Tehsil or Village branches. Even the State Central Library does not cater to the needs of sub-urban areas. Thus out of total population roughly 70% of the Rural population is altogether left unattended in regard to the library facilities.

As per the statistics recently collected from Director of Higher Education, Haryana, two mobile libraries at Amabala and Gurgaon are likely to start functioning during this financial year i.e. 1985-86. The following amount has also been earmarked for the purpose.

Books Rs.20,000-00

Contingency Rs. 2,000-00

Binding Rs. 3,000-00

In addition, four Tehsil libraries at Jagadhri Bahadurgarh Kaithal and Panipat are also likely to be started during 1985-86.

STAFFING AND MANPOWER

Every public library in order to provice smooth services and inculcate the reading habits among the masses require sufficient staff. In Haryana, it is a practice to provide the following staff to every District Library i.e. one professional librarian, one Junior Librarian, One Clerk, one Restorer and two class IV employees. At State Central Library, one State Librarian (Gazetted Post), two Librarians of Senior Scale, one Junior Librarian, two Restorers, two clerks, one Binder and Five Class IV employees. For future according to the norms fixed by the Government one extra Restorer and a clerk are provided on every increase of 10,000 books. The present staff formula is under revision and it is hoped that every public library will be equipped with more staff.

BUDGET

The budget for Public Library is in Haryana is not much encouraging. It is in no way linked with the increased in general population and the population of literates. The following chart will clearly show the percentage of budget being spent on the development of libraries. Hardly it comes

to 0.08% of the total budget provision for education in the State. In the method of proportion, the library budget should be atleast one percent of the total budget.

Statement showing the total budget expenditure on education and Libraries from 1980-81 to 1985-86 (in lakhs)

Year	School Education	Higher Education	Total	Expenditure on Libraries
1981-82	6647.41	1146.69	7794.10	573120/-
1982-83	7617.34	1308.41	8925.75	683680/-
1983-84	9083.74	1412.53	10496.27	694785/-
1984-85	10757.86	1938.20	12696.06	583607/-
1985-86	11653.42	1928.05	13581.47	830890/-

LIBRARY LEGISLATION

Among the most prominent reasons for the poor library services in the State, are the control of more than one library authorities and inadequate sources of funds. For free library services to one and all, sufficient finances, maintenance of proper standards of service to the users, economy and efficiency it is essential, that all public libraries should be brought under the one common management and this is possible only through legislation.

The aim of library legislation is to create the necessary library agencies, and to define their functions in such a way, that the library services may work along the most effective and economical lines. Library legislation guarantees

establishment, development and maintenance of libraries. It provides for necessary financial support on a suitable and progressive basis.

Towards legislation Madras was the first state in India to adopt a Public Library Act in 1948, followed by Hyderabad 1955, Andhra Pradesh 1960, Karnataka 1965, Maharastra 1967 and West Bengal 1979. In Haryana sincere efforts in this regard were made from time to time, but no fruitful result could be achieved untill now.

CONCLUSION

Education according to Indian Constitution is a State subject and, therefore, the provision of Public Library service is the responsibility of State. The Central Government could extend financial aid to them. Public Library is an institution for furtherance of popular education. Education implies the use of books for spiritual and intellectual, as well as material and vocational benefit. Without good public libraries, the purpose cannot be attained. The State of Haryana is more sound financially than many of the States in India. If the available financial sources are incorporated in the Act by the Government of Haryana, it will not be difficult for this State to have a good net work of Library System in the State.

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SURVEY OF PUBLIC LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT IN KARNATAKA

S.R.Ijari**

1 INTRODUCTION

An attempt has been made to give in the paper a pen picture of the public library scene in Karnataka since 1900.

11 LIBRARIES IN KARNATAKA

Karnataka state is the eight largest state in India both in area (1,91,791 sq.kms) and population (3,70,43,451 census, 1981).

Karnataka has played no mean part in the national scene. Its contributions to the national culture are well known facts. Though the Kings and conquerores departed long ago, they have left behind them an indeliable and enduring imprint through the art and architecture, standing as mute evidences of the glorious and colourful past of the state.

"Epigraphic evidences are available to show that a great many libraries were attached to universities and Religio Maths. Some such centres where universities prospered were Aihole, Pavittage (Salvotagi, Dist.Bijapur), Nagavi, Balligavi and libraries were attached to many . Religious Maths viz., Jain Math at Swadi (Near Sirsi, U.K.) the Viraktamath at Yakku Shivayogamandir near Badami and Sringeri Math, Udagatti".

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"With the fall of Vijayanagar empire, however, darkness enveloped the land. The Karnataka was split into five parts. Mysore and Coorg were carved into two separate states and remaining portions of Karnataka were distributed among Bombay, Madras and Hyderabad States". (1)

1 11 BOMBAY KARNATAKA AREA

In this area "Native Libraries were established at Belgaum and Dharwad in 1848 and 1854 respectively by the British officers to curb the anti-British movement in Karnataka. Though, these libraries did not gain popularity at that time, but they appear to be pioneers for Public Library Movement in Karnataka." (2)

Belgaum

"The Belgaum Native General Library seems to be the first Library to be started in Karnataka in the Nineteenth century. It was established in 1848 by Mr.J.D.Inverarity, the then Collector of Belgaum. It was housed in a building of its own. It had in 1882, a collection of 1,036 books, of which 622 were in English, 204 Marathi, 34, Sanskrit, 31 Kannada and 63 Gujarathi. Besides this, there were seven other libraries or reading rooms in Belgaum District, round about the year 1882.

In Shirahatti, The Lokamanya Dharmartha Vachanalaya was established in 1881 by the then Sangli Government with the active cooperation of the eminent citizens of the town. This library is now taken over by the Department of Public Libraries and is under the control of DCL, Dharwar.

Jubilee Libraries

Subsequently at Karwar, Kumta and Kundagol 'Jubilee Libraries' came into being.

Bijapur

At about the same time, seven libraries or reading rooms were established in the Bijapur District, "one each at Bagalkot, Bagewadi, Bilgi, Bijapur, Indi, Kaladgi and Muddabihal. The Indi and Muddebihal Libraries were maintained from the interest of permanent funds. The Bagalkot, Bagewadi, Bijapur, Bilgi, and Kaladgi Libraries were maintained partly from subscriptions and partly from yearly municipal grants." (5)

Karwar

The Karwar General Library came into being in the year 1864, due to the interest and enthusiasm of the learned men of the region. Though shifted from place to place during its earlier years, the library has its own building now, constructed in 1912-13, by the funds granted by the then Government of Bombay.

These were established as stated below:

a) Library at Chikkodi, 1886

b) Nippani Library, 1875

c) Gokak Library, 1865

d) Athani Library, 1865

e) Sampagaon Library, 1866

f) Khanapur Library, 1868 and

g) Saundatti Library, 1870 (3)

The native general library at Belgaum is now known as Belgaum General Library.

Dharwad

Dharwad is the cultural capital of Bombay Karnataka and a well-known educational centre had a Native General Library "Established in 1854 by L.S.Nagpurkar. It had in 1882 a collection of about 414 books in English, 30 in Marathi and only 7 in Kannada, is now known as Garag Siddhalingappa Municipal General Library" (4) This library was taken over by the Department of Public Library of the State recently and is merged with the CCL Dharwad.

Further, in Hubli, a Public Library was started in 1865, with the support from Municipal Fuhds and subscription from Public, It had about 850 books in 1882, in English, Kannada Sanskrit, Gujarathi and Marathi languages. A similar library was also established in Ranebennur in 1873.

The library had a total collection of 12,069 till 1964 The library was taken over by the Department of Public Libraries, in the year 1977 and is now designated as the District Central Library of Uttar Kannada District (Formerly known as North Kanara).

The Karnataka Vidya Vardhaka Sangha

"The Karnataka Vidya Vardhaka Sangh started way back in 1890 was a pioneer in the revival of interest in Kannada language, literature and culture." (6) This Sangh started under its own auspices a public library under the name Shantesh Vachanalaya in 1929.

This library held the First All-Bombay Karnataka Library Conference giving birth to the Karnataka Library Association.

Library Development Committee - 1939

It may be of interest to note that the then Bombay Government in the year 1939 appointed a Committee under the Chairmanship of Mr.A.A.A.Fyzee to study the existing situation of library services in the then Bombay Provinde and recommend suitable measures for the development and strengthening of Public Library Services in the province. The Committee put forth a scheme for developing libraries in the province in six stages. The first stage was setting up of the Central Library at Bombay and 3 regional libraries.

As a result, Regional Libraries at Ahmedabad, Dharwad and Poona came into being charged with the responsibility of acting as regional depository centres for copy-right collection in the respective regional languages. The Karnataka Vidya Vardhaka Sangha took the responsibility of managing the Regional Library at Dharwad. In 1967 about 17,000 copies of valuable copy-right books which were in stock in the Regional Library at Dharwad, were transfered to the State Central Library, Bangalore to form the nucleus of the Central Copy-right Bureau to be started as a wing in the SCL at Bangalore, under the provision of the KPLA, 1965. The remaining collection was merged with the collection of city Central Library, Dharwad.

The Karnataka Library Association

"In the wake of the establishment of the Regional Library, the Karnataka Library Association ([illegible]) also became very active. The Association secured recognition from the State Government (Bombay Government) in 1950. It also began to receive an annual grant-in-aid. It constitution was finalised. The Association published a book on Library Science written in Kannada by experts. It also conducted Library Training Classes. The compilation of a directory of libraries in Karnatak had been contempolated by it". (7)

Under the auspices of the Association the Second All Bomba y - Karnataka Library Conferance was held in 1948 at Dharwad. The Third and Fourth Conferences were held at Kundgol and at Kunta in 1952 and 1953 respectively.

The Fifth Conference was held in 1958 at Dharwad. The important outcome of the Conference was the decisior to transform the Karnatak Library Association into that of an All Karnataka nature.

112 OLD MYSORE AREA

The existence of public libraries in the old Mysore area was conspicuously absent. However, the development of public libraries throughout the state was thought of at the conference convened by the Education Committee in 1913, presided over by late Dr.M.Vishveshwarayya, the then Diwan of Mysore. He sponsored a scheme for a planned programme of development of public library facilities. As the outcome of the recommendation of this Committee in 1914, two libraries were established one at Bangalore and the other at Mysore. The Library at Bangalore grew into the present State Central Library (SCL) popularly known as the Public Library or Sir Seshadri Memorial Library.

<u>The Bangalore Public Library</u>

Speaking of this Library, Dr.Ranganathan observed that "The Bangalore Public Library, is I am told, a

brain-child of Mokashagundam Vishveshwarayya. He conceived it in accordance with the ideas about a Public Library prevailing 50 years ago. It was in effect meant to provide reading materials to scholastic minded, fairly rich, and leisured class of people. It began as a subscription library. It was a public library in the sense that it was open to any member of the public to become a paying member. The message sent on its formal opening on 1st May 1915, by Vishweshwarayya had, however, the pregnant words, "Cherish the hope that it will be a lasting benefit to the citizens of Bangalore'" The management of Bangalore Public Library continuously liberalized its services. From the very beginning it maintained a "Free Reading Room" for the use of news-papers and periodicals by any person without payment it also allowed non-subscribers to read the books of the Library within the library premises. But the previlege of taking books home was denied to a non-member".

"In spite of the concessions given to non-subscribing public, the Bangalore Public Library could not answer the modern definition of a Public Library".

"The Mysore Public Libraries Act, defines the future of the Bangalore Public Library in precise terms in Section 36, read as follows.

Hassan

The Public Library at Hassan came into being in 1916. The late Dr.M.Vishveshvarayya, the then Diwan, was responsible for establishing this library "in commemoration of the coronation of King George V, and it was called "The King George V Coronation Institute Library and Reading Room". (9) In 1970, this library was converted as the District Central Library, and after wards named as City Central Library in 1978.

Sakaleshpur

The Coronation Reading Room and Library, at Sakaleshpur, was established in 1914. It was being managed by a Committee of 5 members.

Tumkur

The Tumkur District Gazeteer makes a reference to the library services not only in the district but also in the old Mysore State in the following words. "A feature of the library movement in the state was the starting of an integrated library service in compact areas under a Government of India Scheme of Educational Development. Each such area was supplied with periodicals, journals and books of interest, which were circulated in the villages of that area ..."

"There were ten public libraries in Tumkur district as on 1st January 1968, namely (1) Sri Krishnarajendra Library,

Tumkur, (2) Bharat Sevadal Free Reading Room and Library Tumkur, (3) Yuvak Sangha Free Reading Room and Library, Sriram Nagar, (4) Nehru Free Reading Room and Library, Kyatsandra, (5) Friend's Union Library, Gubbi, (6) Lakshmijanardhanaswamy Library, Kadaba, (7) Library and Reading Room, Chikanayakanahalli, (8) Vasavi Pustak Mandir, Madhugiri, (9) Yuvak Sangha Reading Room and Library, Nagalapur, Turvekere Taluk, (10) Anubhava Allama Prabhu Library and Reading Room, Tiptur."

"Among these, the Sri Krishnarajendra Library, Tumkur, was started in the year 1918 by the late Sri C.Krishna Rao, retired Deputy Inspector-General of Education, who was its Founder-Secretary."(10)

This library was converted as the District Central Library of Tumkur District in 1972.

1 13 HYDERABAD KARNATAKA AREA

The Districts of Raichur, Gulburga and Bidar formerly in the Hyderabad State, popularly known as Hyderabad Karnataka became a part of Karnataka on 1st November, 1956, as a result of the reorganisation of the States. This region was not developed in respect of libraries and institutions of higher learning, in spite of the existence of the Hyderabad Public Libraries Act, which was applicable to this area.

Bidar

Prior to the introduction of the Karnataka Public Libraries Act (KPLA) in 1965, there were two public Libraries. The Public Library and Reading Room, Bidar, established in the district, receiving grant-in-aid from Government in 1939, is the oldest. In addition a Municipal Library was started in 1959 at Bidar. This library is housed in its own building.

Hudgi

The Public Library with the name the Sarvodaya Library, was started in 1956. This also is housed in its own building.

1.14 MADRAS KARNATAKA AREA

Mangalore popularly known as South Kanara and now officially known as Dakshina Kannada formed part of the old Madras State, where the Madras Public Libraries Act, 1948 was in operation. Under the provision of this Act "every district was to have a Local Library Authority under which any number of libraries could be started with the assistance of Municipalities and other local bodies".

"Under the Scheme, a well-equipped library was started in Mangalore in 1951, and it was called the Karnad Sadashiva Rao District Library. The Local Library Authority had its branch libraries at Udupi (1954), Belthangadi (1954),

Karkal (1954), Coondapur (1955), Puttur (1955), Bantwal (1962) and Sullia (1968) and 35 delivery stations".(11)

In 1969, the Department of Public Libraries of Karnataka took over the Karnad Sadashiva Rao Library and designated it as the City Central Library (CCL) to serve the citizens of Mangalore City. The Department also established the District Central Library (DCL) and took over the management of the other libraries mentioned above and brought them under the DCL as per the provision of KPLA, 1965.

1.15 COORG

The Coorg district is surrounded by the scenic beauty and green hills of the Western Ghats as also the luxurient coffee plantations.

The British Officers and the rich coffee planters started a subscription library at Mercara now called as Madikeri and later handed it over to the Fort Club. It was known as Mahatma Gandhi Public Library, and it was converted into District Central Library of Kodagu District, in 1970, as per KPLA, 1965.

Karnataka Public Libraries Act (KPLA) 1965

It was in 1958, the Karnataka Library Conference held at Dharwad passed a resolution to have a library legislation in the State as suggested by Shri B.V.Baliga, the then speaker of the State Legislative Assembly.

The Karnataka Library Association was also played a dominant role in getting the Bill passed without delay and it became an Act on 22nd April, 1965.

The Act has been highly acclaimed by no less a person than Dr.S.R.Ranganathan. The provisions and the significant features, much required for an over-all development of a Public Library system are included in the KPLA, is an improvement upon the already existing Acts of Tamil Nadu (1948), Andhra Pradesh (1960) and the Model Public Libraries Bill (1963).

The KPLA is responsible for the creation of an independent department. It has provision to appoint a professionally qualified person as Director, to manage, supervise and control the entire public libraries affairs in the State. The State Central Library (SCL) is at the apex in the organisation, followed by City Central Libraries (CCLS) and their branches in the urban areas where the population is a lakh and above. Next in rung are the District Central Libraries (DCLS). The DCLs are situated in all the District places and establishing branches and service stations all over the districts. To run the Department, a flexible financial provision is made in the Act by levying taxes on various taxable items and collected in the form of cess, which is pooled for the purchase of reading materials and maintenance of the CCLs and DCLs, whereas the expenditure of SCL is looked after by the State Govt.

In support of the above statement to quote Dr. S.R. Ranganathan, "Its financial clauses are more realistic and up-to-date. They are correctly oriented to the current tax pattern of our country from Centre through State to the Cities and Panchayats. The Mysore Act also shows the ways to the Library Act for other constituent States of India". (12)

Main Salient Features of the KPLA, 1965

The significant contribution to the legislation in India, by the Karnataka Act is delineated as follows:

1. The act provides for a State Library Authority in the form of a corporate body. The members are drawn from different segments of the Society.
2. There is a provision for creating an independent Department of Public Libraries.
3. There is specific mention for the establishment of State Central Library at the apex of Public Library System (PLS) in the State.
4. The Local Library Authority, has also a place in the Act for both urban and rural areas.
5. Provision is also made in the Act for setting up Advisory Committee for Branch and Village Library Services.
6. It provides for centralised technical process.
7. It also provides for centralised units like
   a. Copy-right collection of the State;
   b. State Library for the Blind;
   c. State Bibliographic Bureau etc.

8. For the financial resources, the Act has the provision for the levy of library cess in the form of a surcharge on all possible taxable units of the State revenues.
9. The District Library Authority gets the annual grant from the State Government (3% of the land revenue).
10. The act clearly states that the expenditure of the SCL is to be looked after by the State Government.
11. The Act empowers the State Government and the Local Library Authority (LLA) to make necessary rules and bye-laws.
12. The Act creates a State Level Services bestowing upon its employees all the benefits and privileges as are available to the other State Government Servants.

2 PUBLIC LIBRARY SCENE

Since the implementation of the KPLA, 1965, the Department of Public Libraries has done its best in establishing Public Libraries to enlighten its citizens. Karnataka is the third State in the country in enacting the Public Library Law.

The Library services provided by the Department in different areas of the State is shown clearly in Table-1.

2 1 REASONS FOR NON-DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Since the implementation of the KPLA in the State, the expected development programmes and the growth rate both

physical as well as service points in the field, is far from satisfactory. Within the span of 19 years much could have been achieved. The reasons for such a state of affairs can be attributed to the fact that proper net work planning ha not been done soon after the enactment of the Act. No doubt, with the initial zeal, quite a number of libraries and branches were established, but they are still continuing with age-old practices.

There are reasons - social, cultural, educational and financial - inter - acting and affecting the developmental programmes taken on hand under the KPLA. Some of the important ones are as under:

1. The first and the formost factor is the lack of planning of the Public Library System (PLS), considering the various socio-economic, educational and cultural conditions of the State.

2. With all zeal and struggle, the Act came into force in 1965. But it has not been implemented in full measure uptill now.

3. Under Section 41 of the KPLA, bye-laws governing the working of the CCLs and DCLs have been framed. Unfortunately, however, consistency is not maintained in such bye-laws.

4. Minimum conforts like good furniture, good ventilation are not provided to the users.

TABLE - L : PUBLIC LIBRARY SCENE IN KARNATAKA (As on 1-4-1983)

Name of the place	SCL/ CCL/ DCL/ AU	Taluk Libs.	Br. Libs.	Villa age Libs.	SS	Dept. Cent.	Aided Libs.	RRRLF Taluk Cent.	RRRLF Village Cent.	Mobile SS
SCL										
Bangalore	SCL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CCLS										
Bangalore	CCL	-	9	-	44	-	7	-	-	-
Belgaum	"	-	10	-	-	1	4	-	-	-
Bijapur	"	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Devangere	"	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Dharwad	"	-	16	-	-	-	3	-	-	-
Gulburga	"	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hassan	"	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Mangalore	"	-	7	-	-	-	4	-	-	-
Mysore	"	-	5	-	5	1	4	-	-	29
Shimoga	"	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
			51	-	51	2	24	-	-	29
DCLS										
Bangalore	AU	11	-	4	-	-	-	11	72	-
Belgaum	"	8	-	3	27	-	13	10	290	-
Bellary	DCL	7	-	13	4	-	-	8	113	-
Bidar	"	4	-	2	3	-	1	5	76	-
Bijapur	AU	9	-	5	-	-	11	11	182	-
Chikmagalur	DCL	6	-	6	-	-	1	7	28	-

Contd..

Chintamani	DCL	10	-	-	-	-	2	11	30	-
Chitradurga	"	7	-	1	1	-	2	9	78	-
Coorg (Kodgu)	"	2	-	3	1	21	1	3	26	-
Dharwad	AU	14	2	13	-	-	7	17	159	-
Gulburga	"	5	-	3	-	-	-	10	166	-
Hassan	"	6	-	3	-	-	-	8	13	-
Karwar(Uttar Kannada)	DCL	7	-	1	3	-	14	11	48	-
Mandya	"	6	6	-	6	-	-	7	80	-
Mangalore (Dakshina Kannada)	AU	7	-	8	-	34	-	8	165	-
Mysore	"	9	-	-	-	-	-	11	162	-
Raichur	DCL	4	-	6	3	-	1	9	80	-
Shimoga	AU	5	-	3	-	-	2	9	63	-
Tumkur	DCL	6	-	3	-	-	4	10	74	-
		133	61	79	99	57	83	175	1905	

SC: = State Central Library, CCL = City Central Library

AU = Administrative Unit DCL = District Central Library.

5. The paucity of funds due to abolition of octroi and similar other decisions of the Government towards library cess, have adversely affected the working of the libraries.

6. To add to this, whatever funds are made available for purchase of reading materials and upkeep of collection and maintenance, are normally released at the fag end of the financial year, putting the book purchase programme in jeopardy.

7. Physiographically the State is very vast. Even though most of the urban areas are well-connected by road, rail, telecommunication and some even by air, the larger rural areas are deprived of these benefits.

8. Unimaginative attitude and at times indifferent decisions taken by the authorities have been responsible for the slow and lopsided growth of libraries in terms of collection, readers and the staff.

9. Insufficient shelving space has transformed many libraries into mere book godowns.

10. The children's section as well as the Braille Section are being totally neglected by the authorities.

11. Personal assistance to readers by the library staff is non-existent because of inadequate and under-qualified staff.

12. It appears that the Government is not much sympathetic towards improving the lot of PLs in the State as is evident from the poor financial allocations made by it.

13. No proper supervision and technical guidance is provided to the staff members.

14. There is no proper cooperation and coordination among the different library units.

15. There is a lot of dissatisfaction among the qualified staff as they do not enjoy status and scales of pay commensurate with their qualifications and experience.

16. The promotional opportunities are severely limited.

17. No Review committee is appointed to evaluate the working situations of the PLs, which is most essential for developmental programmes.

18. The existing professional associations in the state in particular, and national associations in general, are not evincing keen interest in promoting the public library activities in collaboration with the community development programmes launched by the State Government from time to time.

CONCLUSION

The remedy for overcoming all these maladies lies in an integrated, balanced, far-sighted, flexible and comprehensive public library planning to be undertaken on an urgent basis. To realise the suitable amendments to the KPLA must be initiated.

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ROLE OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN THE CHANGING SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL CONTEXT : CASE STUDY OF KARNATAKA

V.Suryaprakash**

The public library is rightly called as people's university. The doors of the public library are wide open to irrespective of caste, creed or colour. The Unesco Manifesto emphasises that public library system should be established under the clear mandate of law, so as to ensure nation-wide provision of public library service. "To fulfill its purposes, the public library must be readily accessible and its doors open for free and equal use by all members of the community regardless of race, colour, nationality, age, sex, religion, language status or educational attainment".

The public library is as important as any other public institution serving for the welfare of the community. It is by and large one of the essential institutions in a society. To quote Dr.Ranganathan "Libraries have the power to produce material happiness, mental joy and spritual delight they are social social institutions charged with the duty of providing the means for the perpetual self-education of one and all"(1) Thus the public library is a democratic institution as it socializes the knowledge stored in it, enabling a society to flourish educationally, socially, economically and culturally at all levels.

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* ROLE OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN THE PRESENT SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL CONTEXT : A PERSPECTIVE OF KARNATAKA

by

[illegible]**

The public library, in its truly public sense, is a universality. The doors of the public library are open to all, irrespective of caste, creed or religion. The [illegible] compelled this public library system needs to be established under the [illegible] of law, so as to ensure [illegible] provision of public library service. To fulfil its purposes, the public library must [illegible] its doors open for all on equal terms to all members of the community regardless of race, colour, nationality, age, sex, religion, language status or educational attainment".

The public library is as important as any other public institution serving the needs of the community. It is by and large one of the essential institutions in a society. To quote Unesco manifesto "[illegible] happiness, mental joy and spiritual delight [illegible] institutions charged with the duty of providing the means for the perpetual self-education of one and all"(4). Thus the public library is a democratic institution as it facilitates the knowledge spread in it, enabling a society to [illegible], economically and culturally at all levels.

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The objectives and functions of the public libraries have been brought out by Dr.S.R.Ranganathan in the following words.

1. "Help the life-long self education of one and all"

2. "Furnish up-to-date facts and information on all subjects to one and all"

3. "Distribute in an unbiased and balanced way all shades of recorded views and thoughts to one and all", and serve as help in the discharge of their political local, national and international affairs.

4. "Contribute to productive drive by informing to Management of the latest trends in diverse enterprises by ploughing back into the minds of researchers, designers, technologists every piece of relevant thought promptly"

5. "Preserve the literary remain of humanity for posterity as vehicles of culture and source materials for antiquarian research"

6. "To provide to one and all harmless and elevating use of leisure and in general"

7. "Work for continued social well-being as the agency in charge of all socialised thought"

Thus a public library is an active, dynamic democratic institution serving the socio-economic educational recreational and cultural needs of a community.

The present paper provides a broader outline of public library system operating in the state after the enactment of Karnataka Public Libraries Act 1965, and its services to the people in the social and educational context.

KARNATAKA STATE

Karnataka State is often described as priceless gift of indulgent nature. It evokes memories of rich past with

historical cultural, social and religious traditions that almost go back to antiquity. The state is known for harmonious blend of the best of composite culture despite the multiplicity of religions."

Karnataka is the eighth largest state in India, both in area and population. It has an area of 1,91,791 Sq.Kms. The population of the state as per the 1981 Census is 3,71,35,714 (3)

After the reorganisation of states on 1st Nov.1956 the state now known as "KARNATAKA" came into existence, comprising the five areas mentioned below:-

1. Old Mysore Districts:- Mysore, Bangalore, Kolar, Tumkur, Chitradurga, Shimoga, Hassan, Chickmagalur and Mandya.
2. Madras state Districts:- Bellary and South Kanara.
3. Bombay Karnataka Area:- Belgaum, Dharwad, Bijapur and North Kanara.
4. Hyderabad Karnataka:- Bidar, Gulburga and Raichur,
5. Coorg.

The literacy of the state is 38.5% as per the 1981 census of which male has literacy of 48.8% and female27.7%. The population structure of the state is predominantly rural and agrarian. The rural and urban population of the state is 2,64,06,108 and 1,07,29,606 respectovely.

19 Districts of the state comprise of 175 talukas and 27,028 villages. The capital city of Karnataka is Bangalore, having a population of 29,13,537. The cities of

Belgaum, Bellary, Bhadravathy, Bijapur, Davangere, Gadag, Gulburga, Hospeth, Hubli-Dharwad, K.G.F.,Mandya, Mangalore, Mysore, Raichur, Shimoga and Tumkur are having a population over a lakh.

Karnataka has always been leading state in the field of education. The percentage of literacy as per 1981 Census is 38.5% Dakshina Kannada (53.5%), Bangalore (51.3%) and Kodagu(50.1%) districts occupy the first three places in the order of literacy, where as Bidar(26.4%) Gulburga (24.9%) and Raichur(24.7%) districts take the last three places.

Education system of the state has been uniform since the reorganisation of statein 1956. The educational pattern in the state is 10+2+3.

Primary Education:

Universal compulsory and free primary education is for the age group 6 to 10. The medium of instruction is the mother tongue of the pupil. The number of primary school is 36,814.

Secondary Education:

The Secondary Education is imparted through high schools, higher secondary schools and composite junior colleges, which are 3,298 in number.

Higher Education:

The state is having at present six Universities to provide higher education to the people in the different regions

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and Indian Institute of Science, which is deemed to be a university was established at Bangalore in 1909-

1) University of Mysore, Mysore.(1916)
2) Karnatak University, Dharwad.(1949)
3) Bangalore University, Bangalore.(1964)
4) University of Agricultural Science at Hebbal, Bangalore.(1964)
5) Mangalore University, Mangalore(1980)
6) Gulburga University, Gulbarga.(1980)

Now there are six full fledged universities and one institute deemed to be a university. The total number of colleges in the state is 8011.

Every district has on an average, half-a-dozen colleges and a number of high schools. There is a high school/junior college in every taluka. There are other professional training institute and polytechnics imparting technical and professional education they are 470, in number.

2. PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN KARNARAKA PRE-INDEPEN.ENCE PERIOD

a) Bombay Karnataka Area: "Native libraries were established at Belgaum and Dharwad in 1848 and 1854 respectively by the British officers to curb the anti-British movement in Karnatiaka. Though, these libraries did not gain popularity at that time, they appear to be poineers in public library movement in Karnataka". The Belgaum Native Genersl Library seems to be the first Library to be started in Karnataka in the 19th century. It was established in1848 by J.D.Inverarity, the

then collector of Belgaum. It was housed in a building of its own. It had in1982 a collection of 1,036 books. There are other libraries or reading rooms at Chikkodi(1886), Nippani(1875), Gokak(1865), Athani(1865), Sampagoan(1866), Khanapur (1968) and Soundathi (1870).

" The Native General Library of Dharwad was established in 1854 by Nagpurkar L.S. It had in 1882 a collection of about 414 books in English, 30 books in Marathi and only 7 in Kannada, is now known as Garag Siddalingappa Municipal General Library". (5) A library was also started in Hubli in 1965, with the support of Municipal funds and subscription. The Ranebennur Library was started in 1873. The Lokamanya Dharmartha Vachanalaya of Shrahatti was established in 1881 by the then Sangli Govt. "At about the same time, there were in the Bijapur District seven libraires or reading rooms one each at Bagalkot, Bagewadi, Bilgi, Bijapur, Indi, Kaladgi and Muddebihal". (6) The Karwar General Library came into being in the year 1864 due to the interest and enthusiasm of the learned men of the region.

"Karnataka Vidyavardhaka Sangh started way back in 1980 was a pioneer in the revival of interest in Kannada language, literature and culture". (7)

Old Mysore:

The Development of public libraries in the old

Mysore area was very slow. The Bangalore Public Library is an important milestone in the development of libraries in old Mysore area. This library was started on 1st May 1915, as a subscription library to provide reading materials to scholstic minded fairly rich and leisured class of people. From the very beginning it maintained " Free Reading Room" freely open to all, but book lending facility was limited to its members.

" The public library at Hassan was opened in the year 1916 by late M.Vishweshwaraiah the then Diwan in commemeration of the Coranation of King George V and it was called King George V Caronation Institute Library and Reading Room" (8) In 1970, this library, was convorted as District Central Library and afterwords named as City Central Library in 1978. Sri Krishnarajendra Library, Tumkur, was started in the year 1918 by the Late C.Krishna Rao, Retired Deputy Inspector General of Education, Who was its founder Secretary. The same library has been converted as District Central Library of Tumkur District in 1972. Totally there were ten libraries in Tumkur Dist. as on 1st January 1968 namely, 1) Sri Krishbarajendra Library, Tumkur, 2) Bharath Sevadal Reading Room and Library, Tumkur, 3) Yuvaka Sangh Free Reading Room and Library, Sriramnagar 4) Nehru Free Reading Room and Library, Kyatasandra 5) Friends Union Library, Gubbi 6) Lakshmijanardhan Swamy Library, Kadaba 7) Library & Reading Room, Chikkanayakanahalli

8) Vasavi Pustaka Mandir, Madhugiri 9) Yuvaka Sangh, Reading Room and Library, Nagalapur, Tavvarekere Taluks 10) Anubhava Allam Prabhu Library & Reading Room, Tipatur.

HYDERABAD KARNATAKA AREA

"Prior to the introduction of Karnataka Public Libraries Act, in 1965, there were three public libraries, two at Bidar and other at Hudgi in Humnabad Taluka". 9 The Public Library and the Reading Room is the oldest of the grant-in-aid libraries in the district. It was started in 1939 near Osmania Mosque. "The Sarvodya Library, Hudgi was started in 1956 and is housed in its own building. In 1975, it contained 2,045 books". 10

MADRAS STATE

Under the Madras Local Libraries Act 1948 a District Authority was functioning in South Kanara and Bellary, according to the Act every district was to have Local Library Authority under which any number of libraries could be started with the assistance of municipalities and other local bodies.

"Under the scheme a well equipped library started in Mangalore in 1951 it was called the Karnad Sadashiva Rao, District Library. The Local Library Authority had its branch libraries at Udupi (1954), Belthangadi (1954), Karkal (1954) Coondapur (1955), Puttur (1955) Bantwala (1962) and Sullia (1960) and 35 Delivery Stations" 11

In 1969 all the libraries of the region were converted into City Central Library and District Central Library in accordance with Karnataka Public Libraries Act 1965. Bellary District also had a Local Library Authority.

COORG

The Coorg District is known for its beauty surrounded by the green hills and coffee plantations. The British officers and the rich coffee planters started a subscription library at Mercara and later on it was handed over to Fort Club. It was known as Mahatma Gandhi Public Library and it was converted into the District Central Library of Kodagu District in 1970.

KARNATAKA PUBLIC LIBRARIES ACT 1965

The Mysore Library Association was responsible for creating public opinion in favour of Library Act. It was in 1950 the Karnataka Library Conference held at Dharwad passed a resolution to have library legislation in the state as suggested by B.V.Baliga. "In1961 the Mysore Government appointed a Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr.S.R.Ranganathan to draft a Public Libraries Bill for Mysore State. The committee submitted its report in February 1963. It contained a draft bill and development plan".12 It became an act on 22nd April, 1965. The Mysore Public Libraries Act changed its nomenclature in 1973 as a Karnataka Public Libraries Act. The K.P.L.Act is a significant landmaik in the history of public library movement not only in Karnataka but served as a model for other states in India and elsewhere.

The Department of Public Libraries in Karnataka came into existence on 1st November, 1966 in accordance with the provisions of K.P.L.Act. This act intends to provide for the establishment and maintenance of public libraries and the organisations of comprehensive rural and urban library service in the State of Karnataka. According to this act, Director (formerly called as State Librarian and Head, Department of Public Libraries) is a full time officer with qualifications to practice as a librarian. The provision that all staff are

employees of the State Library Service and paid out of the consolidated fund of the state is a special feature. Another most significant provision of the Act is creating a wider base for taxation not confined to a levy on property tax alone. There is provision to increase the rate of levy from 3% to 6%.

The Karnataka Public Libraries Act 1965 is an improvement upon the then existing Acts of Tamil Nadu (1948) and Andhra Pradesh (1960). The provisions and significant features, much required for an overall, development of a public Library system are made in the Karnataka Public Libraries Act.

The K.P.L.Act is responsible for the creation of an independent department of Public Libraries. It has a provision to appoint a professionally qualified person as Director (formerly State Librarian & Head, Department of Public Libraries) to direct, supervise and control the entire public library system.

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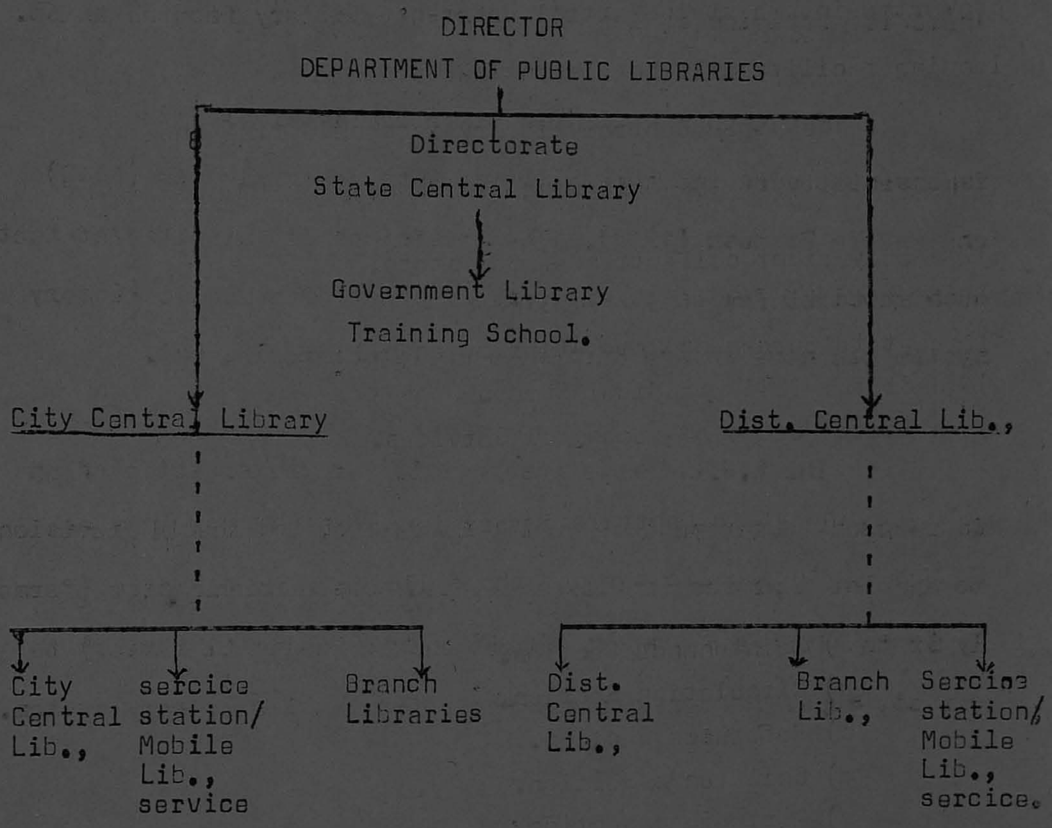
3. STRUCTURE OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM:

The structure of the public library system of Karnataka is shown schematically:-



State Central Library:-

The Bangalore Public Library established in 1915 has been designated as the State Central Library of the Karnataka state in 1965. The State Central Library is at apex of the

public library system of the state. The Director Department of Public Libraries is the Head of the Department of the state Central Library is funmtioning as a reservoir of books and other reading materials, in a near future it will be converted into a state Central Reference Library and the lending facility will be discontinued.

The Stare Central Library is shouldering the responsibility of the following divisions,

a) a copy right collection of the state.
b) a state Library for the blind
c) a State Bureau of Inter-Library Loan.
d) a State Bibliographical Bureau
e) a State Bureau of Technical Services.

The State Central Library is providing the Library services to the public through the follwing sections,

a) Maintenance Section.
b) Circulation Section.
c) Reference Section.
d) Children's Section.
e) Periodical Section.

Much attention has been paid to the needs & requirements of students community, a text book corner is organised with a comprehensive collection of text books and reference books. Prescribed for the various courses. Careerinformation Bureau is also another important section which provides

information Bureau is also another important section which provides information to a large sector of readers on employment opportunities, job-oriented courses and other training facilities available in the state and different parts of the country.

In addition to the above, attention has been paid to keep the Awarded/Winning Books at one place xxxxxxxxx as a source of inspiration for young and forth coming authors.

Government Library Training School:

Another important feature of the state Central Library is the imparting library science education and training leading to a certificate course. The duration of the course is three months. The Director, Dept. of Public Libraries is the Registrar of theSchool.

City Central Libraries:

In accordance with provsions of the KPL Act 1965, City Central Libraries were established in cities having a population of a lakh and above. At present 11 city Libraries have have been established in the cities of Bangalore, Mysore, Hubli-Dharwad, Mangalore, Belgaum, Davangere, Bijapur, Gulburga, Hassan, Shimoga& K.G.F. According to 1981 census, city Central Library Authorities will be constituted for the

Cities of Gadag, Betagari, Bhadrawathi, Raichur, Mandya, Hospeth, Bellary and Tumkur.

Branches:

All the City Central Libraries which are serving the clientele in their respective localities through libraries established in different parts of cities. The criterian adopted by the Dept. is that for every 25,000 population, there will be one branch library. At present there are 55 branch libraires funtion under different City Central Libraries of the State.

Service Stations:-

Service stations under City Central Libraries have been established in different parts of cities to serve the readers. In all 52 service stations are functioning in the 10 City Central Libraries of the State.

District Central Libraries

As per the provisions of the KPL Act,1965 District Central Libraries were established in district Headquarters. However in district xxxxxx where city Central Libraries are functioning the District Central Libraries act as administrative offices and are not

providing services to the readers in the Urban areas, but look after only rural part of the district.

Among these, 10 district Central Libraries are functioning both as administrative offices as well as providing services to readers in head-quarter xxxxxx/ and the entire district. In the remaining 9 H.Q. District Central Libraries are functioning only as administrative offices and providing library services to the entire populace of the District.

Branch Libraries:-

To serve the district particularly in a better way, the Dist.Central Libraries are working with chain of Branch Libraries under the directive given by the department to open branch library wherever the population of the localities are 5,000 and above. At present there are 234 brach libraries are providing library service in dufferent districts.

Service Stations:-

Service Stations have also been established in different places of various districts having population less than 5,000 and more than 2,000. Some of the service stations are landing books and providing periodicals for readers. At present 77 service stations are functioning under different district Central Libraries.

4. PUBLIC LIBRARIES BOOSTER TO THE SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES:

A public Library being social, educational and cultural institution, sefvos the entire community in the widest sense. Public Libraries in Karnataka State have been striving hard in meeting the needs of the community at all levels and touching all the social strata viz, Urban, Sub-Urban and Rural, rich and poor, old and young, literates and ill-literates house wifes, children, ~~xxxxxxx~~ and diseased.

1. Free Book Service for all:- State Central Library, Dist. Central Libraries in all the 19 district headquarters, City Central Libraries in 11 Cities, Branch libraries and service stations in various talukas, towns and villages provide free book service to one and all.

2. Children's Books:- State Central Library, District Central Libraries and City Central Libraries provide attractive collection of books suiting the different age group of childrens and are equipped with specially designed furnitures and equipment.

3. Text Book Corners:- The motto of any public library is to remain as a living force for popular education and contribute to the quality of life and to promote the concept of democratic society. To implement this objective all

have built up seperate sections for that Dist.Central Libraires and City Central/reference books prescribed for various courses. These are easily made available in multiple copies for study and reference.

4. Career Information Bureau:- Information on employment prospects & various competitive examinations providing job apportunities is also provided by the State Central Library, Dist.Central Library & CityCentral Libraries to the young unemployed. Information for higher eudcational and training facilities available in the country is also made available to all. Hence career information centres have been started to collect at one place documents which would enable the personnel to give timely information to those who need the material for building up their career prospects.

5. Braille section:- The State Central Library has special braille collection. These documents are made available to the blind with a special attention from the personnel of the staff. The total collection of braille books is 650 in number.

6. Reference Service:- To supply right information at the right time to the potential users reference sections are built up in all the libraries. In order to provide effective reference service, due care is taken to build up reference collection, which will enable professional librarians to render short range and long range reference service.

7. Mobile Library Service:- To serve the readers at their doors steps Mobile Library Services have been launched in the cities of Mysore, Hubli-Dharwad and Bangalore. Mobile Library service provide books & information to the readers of different localities in the above said cities.

The foregoing presentation of the historical development of public libraries presents an infrastructural growth in Karnataka. From a small group of disjuntive public libraries spread in the major cities, the Karnataka, public libraries system had developed vast net work. Karnataka Public Libraries Act provides an integrated mechanism for such a development However it must be emphasized that the new spread of public libraries have triggered the latent public consiousness among the people. To-day people throng to read the books, enjoy reading and like to get profit out of such reading and public libraries are looked as partners in progress in individual prosperity and social prosperity. In fact investment on public libraries have generated improved quality of information flow to citizens. Bedises leisure time occupation the users tap the library resources to improve their professional activities. The public libraries have provide open access, large amount of reading space in the library and a good collection of documents. Further the public libraries have been staffed by well-trained professional librarians. All the

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developments have led on to organised selection and collection of documents housing in the library and promotion of their use.

The lending of documents have been very much simplified and it provides a very good access to books to a large number of readers. Besides providing a nodal point in every locality of cities, towns, hoblies and villages. Public Libraries have been on the wheels in taking documents to the doors of potential users. Thus there is a dynamic physical movement of documents to the places of readers. Instead of readers going to the library getting bewildered of the sight of large collection of documents it is now documents that are going in search of readers. Thus the public Library system in Karnataka has acted as a two-way valve in attracting readers to books and books to the readers. Thus the motto of five laws of library science, hasbeen achieved.

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ROLE OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN THE CHANGING SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL CONTEXT

WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO KERALA

M. Parameswaran**

1 INTRODUCTION

In a developing country like India acquisition of knowledge is the very base for its survival, progress and strength. The library is an important and influential tool in this respect. There are many other catalysts of influence and change like the film, radio, television and sound recording. But they need to be supplemented by a good public library system because this is the only medium of informal education equally available for the rich and the poor alike. So far the primary service of the library has been to the educated people. But the greater responsibility of a public library system lies in providing service for weaker sections of the society. It has to educate the illiterates and provide reading material for the neo-literates. For this purpose public libraries, should participate in adult education programme, set up rural libraries even in most interior and inaccessible villages, provide library service to women and other home bound people and organise extension services to

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special categories of people like the hospital patients, prisoners etc.

Because of the greater percentage of literacy in Kerala the task described above should have been comparatively easier. But lack of a library legislation is a big handicap in organizing such an efficient library service uniformly throughout the state. But there had been attempts to make library a centre for continuing education and eradication of illiteracy.

2 KERALA GRANTHASALA SANGHAM

The history of the public library system in Kerala coincides with the history of Kerala Granthasala Sangham which started as a voluntary organization and later grew into a managing body of all the public libraries of the state. Therefore, it is only appropriate to review the development of Granthasala Sangham and its activities in relation to rural library service, eradication of illiteracy and other programmes.

The All-Travancore Granthasala Sangham was formed in 1945 with 47 libraries as founder members. It become the Travancore-Cochin Granthasala Sangham in 1949 following the integration of the two states. In 1956 when Kerala State was formed, the Sangham adopted its present name Kerala Granthasala Sangham. Since the formation of the Sangham, the progress of

the library movement in Kerala has been identical with that of the Sangham. It organized all Public libraries in the state and acted as a central organisation. It revived many defunct libraries and established libraries in the interior rural areas where there were none. Sangham distributed grants to the libraries which it received from the state government. But what is more important is that Granthasala Sangham did some commendable service in the field of literacy and adult education.

In 1970 Granthasala Sangham started organizing programmes for the eradication of illiteracy in rural areas. It chalked out an extensive plan for opening adult education centres in all rural libraries and requested to the Central Government for financial aid. Central Government instead of approving the whole scheme gave sanction for conducting some pilot projects in selected rural areas of Trivandrum and Malappuram districts. Sangham started a journal for neoliterates under the title Saksharakeralam and published about one hundred books for neoliterates. Several adult education courses of 6 months duration were conducted in selected centres. The people benefited were fisherfolk and peasants. Granthasala Sangham got UNESCO award for its services in the field of literacy.

Granthasala Sangham started more than 161 nursery schools and managed them successfully with the aid of state government and Child Welfare Society. With the aid of Central

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Government, Granthasala Sangham organised schemes for propagating Hindi. Sangham organised a Hindi Section in more than 3000 rural libraries. It set apart a few pages for publishing articles in Hindi in its literary journal Granthakokam.

In 1975, in connection with International Women's Year, with the aid of Central Government, Granthasala Sangham conducted adult education classes - both for illiterates and literates. Bicycle librarians were appointed for home lending service in selected rural areas. This scheme linked together the rural libraries and the housewives.

Granthasala Sangham and its leading journal Granthalokam monthly engaged in activities relating to literary criticism and literary appreciation. Granthasala Sangham started its cultural wing Granthalokam Suhrit Samiti for study and appreciation of Malayalam literary works. This was a platform for exchange of ideas between poets, novelists and other men of literature and common men who were lovers of literature. In 1972 Sangham conducted a short term course in Malayalam literature.

Harijan Welfare Department of the Government of Kerala was running 72 Harijan Libraries. But one of these libraries had necessary facilities. Sangham chalked out a plan for improving the facilities in these libraries. In 1971 the Government of Kerala handed over these libraries to the Granthasala Sangham.

Sangham improved the conditions of these libraries considerably by providing books and buildings.

Granthasala Sangham conducted a condensed S.S.L.C. course for women in the age group 18 to 30. Thirty women from backward classes were selected. Some of them had education upto 5th standard only. In addition to the subjects in the S.S.L.C. syllabus, these women were taught tailoring and book binding. The course was conducted successfully in 1975-76 with the aid of Central Social Welfare Board. But this programme could not be continued due to lack of financial assistance.

In 1976 there were some internal conflicts among members of Granthasala Sangham due to political groupism and polarisation. Some members in the executive council of the Granthasala Sangham made a representation to the State Government requesting them to take over the control of the Granthasala Sangham. Consequently in March 1977, Government of Kerala State brought an ordinance by which the administration of Granthasala Sangham was brought under a Control Board.

3 THE TRIVANDRUM PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Trivandrum public library is the best available public library in the state. It was started by the British resident Col.Edward Cadogan during the reign of Swathi Thirunal. Now it has been renamed State Central Library. Both State

Central Library and Granthasala Sangham are conducting 4 months certificate courses in Library Science to train unqualified librarians in various libraries of the state.

4 DISTRICT CENTRAL LIBRARIES

There are 4 District Central Libraries managed by statutory committees called Local Library Authorities. These District Central Libraries are situated in Calicut, Trichur, Ernakulam and Kottayam. All these four libraries were started in 19th century. Now one more District Central Library in the Cannanore District has stated recently. The Ernakulam and Kottayam Public Libraries have good buildings, sufficient staff and other facilities. Kottayam Public Library has a separate childrens library attached to it. A master plan is being developed to construct a new building for Calcut District Central Library and to make it a befitting memorial to Jnanapeethom award winner Late Sri S.K.Pottekkatt.

5 SRI CHITHRA MEMORIAL LIBRARY

There are two other good public libraries in Trivandrum city worth mentioning. One is Sri Chithra Memorial Library which was started by the interest of a single person known as Vayanasala Kesava Pillai in 1914 in a vacant corner of his own house. Now it has a good building and more than 25 thousand books in Malayalam. This is perhaps the biggest collection of Malayalam books in the State.

6 MAHAKAVI ULLUR MEMORIAL LIBRARY AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Another important library in Trivandrum city is Mahakavi Ullur Memorial Library and Research Institute. It atarted as a small public library in a single room on rent. The library shifted its collection to its two storeyed building inaugurated by Dr.S.Radhakrishnan, the President of India in 1967. A Bal Bhavan for imparting literary education to school children was inaugurated in this library in 1969. It brought out a number of literary and scholarly publications such as collections of essays, selections of poems etc. Inauguration of a Research Institute and that of an open University Centre were done in 1977. A valuable reference collection of Malayalam and English books has been organised in the upstairs of the library with the personal collection of Mahakavi Ullur as the neucleus.

The open university is conducting several courses such as Diploma Course in Literature for laymen, Diploma course in Radio Broadcasting etc. The programmes of the open university include regular vacation courses for high school students in various aspects of Malayalam literatura and a post graduate course in Malayalam language and literature. In addition the library holds regular seminars symposia and talks on the contri bution of great poets and other scholars of Kerala.

7 NEED FOR LIBRARY LEGISLATION

From 1959 onwards several attempts were made by the Government of Kerala to pass a library bill. Granthasala Sangham wanted that it should be made a statutory body as such in the bill. No government was willing to accept the conditions laid by Granthasala Sangham. But Sangham had sufficient political influence. Therefore, a library bill which will affect the position of the Granthasala Sangham could not be passed in the Assembly either by EMS Ministry or by Achyutha Menon's Ministry. Even though Granthasala Sangham could start andrevive a number of libraries it could not organise the public libraries according to modern scientific technique.

There are many public libraries in the state which render great services in the field of adult education and pre-primary education by conducting similar courses. But what is lacking in Kerala is a library legislation which will give statutory provision for financing and managing these libraries which is more than 4000 in number. These libraries are to be scientifically organised and maintained according to modern library techniques. Especially in the modern context of the accessibility of Television and other audio visual facilities even in rural areas it is essential to have a library legislation which can help reorganising all the libraries according to modern trends and to create a central library at the headquarters of every taluk with reading and audio visual facilities.

PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICES IN MIZORAM

C. Lianzama**

Mizoram is a new name given to the mountainous region earlier known as the Lushai Hills. It was one of the Districts of Assam till 1972 when it became a Union Territory. Lying between Burma in the east and south and Bangladesh in the west, Mizoram occupies an areaof great strategic importance in the North East corner of India. It has a total of 630 miles boundary with Burma and Bangladesh. Mizoram has the most variegated hill terrain in the eastern part of India. The hills are steep and are separated by rivers which flow either to the north or south creating deep gorges between the hill ranges. It has a pleasant climate. Not so hot in summer and not so cold in winter. It is under the direct influence of the monsoon. It is located in latitude 20.20° to 24.27° N. Logitude 92.20° to 93.29° E.

It has an area of 21,087 sq.km. with population of 4,87,774 according to 1981 census. It has about 700 villages only.

** Librarian, State Library,
Mizoram, Aizawl.

PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICES IN MIZORAM

The Mizos [illegible] stock [illegible] have [illegible] century [illegible] under the influence of the [illegible]

The area is now known as the [illegible] region earlier known as the [illegible] District of Assam till 1972 [illegible] lying between Burma in the east and Bangladesh in the west, the [illegible] in the North East corner of India, [illegible] miles boundary with Burma and Bangladesh. Mizoram has the most [illegible] hill terrain in the eastern part of India. The hills are steep and are separated by rivers which flow either to the north or south creating deep gorges between the hill ranges. It has a pleasant climate, not so hot in summer not so cold in winter. It is under the direct influence of the monsoon. It is located between latitude 21°58' to 24°35' N, longitude 92.15' to 93.29' E [illegible]

It has an area of 21,087 [illegible] with population of 4,87,774 according to the 1981 census. It has about 700 [illegible] [illegible]

Population about 50 lakhs.

Literacy 64%.

700 villages.

Poor, people.

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* Librarian, State Library, Mizoram, Aizawl.

The Mizo are of Mongoloid stock and are believed to have migrated into their present habitat between 17th and 18th Century from upper Burma. They came under the influence of the British Missionaries in 19th century, and most of the Mizo became Christian. One of the beneficial results of Missionary activities was the spread of Education. As the Mizo language has no script of its own, the Missionaries introduced the Roman script. The cumulative result was a high percentage of literacy of 59.79% which is surpassed in India only by Chandigarh, Kerala and Delhi.

The first Public Library that the Mizo people has ever had was the Sub-Divisional Library, established in 1964 at Aizawl, the capital by the government of Assam; not a District Library but a Sub-Divisional Library!.

In 1974, after Mizoram is attaining higher administrative Unit, a State Library at the capital Aizawl, two District Libraries at Lunglei and at Saiha were established.

After sometime two more sub-divisional libraries at Champhai and at Kolosib were also established. At present Mizoram has -

One State Library with only 9 staff

Two District Libraries with 5 staff each

Three Sub-Divisional Libraries with 4 staff each.

In addition to these libraries there are 30 village libraries recognised by the State Library Planning Commission. These village libraries are receiving helps from the Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation, Calcutta every year.

Libraries are having no building of their own but occupying rented houses. The monthly house rent to State Library is Rs.3,650/- The budget provision for Library Services is only Rs.11.34 lakhs. during 1985-86.

The Library service is in initial stage. Unlike other States of India, Mizoram has a very good chance to have a very good and effective library services for the people. As already pointed out that the population is thin in this land and the literacy is high.

Taking advantage of this, Library Service can be received by most of the people. That establishment of a library in each village can be done in a very easy way. How? If the government is contributing an amount of Rs.4 lakhs to the Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation, Calcutta, double of the amount contributed would be received back in kind by the contributor to distribute to such village libraries. Each village may get more than Rs.1000/- every year.

There is a very strong and reliable voluntary organizations in each village which is called Young Mizo Association (Y.M.A.). This voluntary organisation is willing to have a library in its village. The government will only supply books. All other requirements for the Libraries such as staff, furniture and building etc will be provided by that organization in voluntary basis.

Village libraries are essentially needed in Mizoram for the uplift the life of the people, for, most of the people, even in the most interior places could read but, unfortunately could not afford reading materials due to poverty. When the government supply books to these village libraries, we learnt that villagers are welcoming and standing in queue intending to borrow such books from their village library.

In such a way, Library Services could be flourished in Mizoram.

Introduction of Library Legislation has also been processed. The State Library Drafted 'Mizoram Public Library Bill' and submitted it to the Government in 1980. But the Government is not in a position to take initiative that the Bill may become an Act. So, Mizoram Library Services is going on without Library Legislation.

The most difficult thing is to wake up the higher authorities to see the need of promoting Library Services in the land.

ASSESSMENT OF PUBLIC LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT IN TAMIL NADU DURING 1900 - 1948

M. S. Subramanian**

PRELUDE

The desire among the intelligentia to be enlightened about the past history of their mother land as well as about the culture was strengthened by the rise of nationalistic spirit which resulted in the foundation of the Indian National Congress in 1885. Eminent scholars, patriots from all walk of life with the aspiration of serving their own people joined the congress. The foundation of 'Home rule movement by Mrs.Annie Besant and Lokamanya Tilak awakened the political and social consciousness of the country's interest.

During the world war-I since Indian people supported the British government severally, the government niggardly enacted the Government of India Act, 1919 enunciating its purpose as to 'provide for the increasing association of Indians in every branch of Indian Administration and for the gradual development of self-government'. The reform of 1919 Act made the Indian leaders and people responsible for state government administration and the transferred power under dyarchy system provided a chance for the eminent Indian political leaders and social workers to serve their own people directly or indirectly in the field of education, cooperative societies, public health, local government etc. Thus

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a favourable background of cherishing the public awareness in the service of their own people was set up and further filliped in the formation of elite groups.

This paper high lights the public library development in Tamil Nadu during 1900-1948 bringing out the contributions of Indian leaders in the Madras Government, elites and individuals in the promotion of public library service.

1 CONNEMARA PUBLIC LIBRARY

During the early half of the 19th century influential British officers were mainly instrumental in the establishment of public libraries. They felt that public libraries should be organised for the spread of education. Enlightened, leaders of India supported them in this endeavour. The movement, therefore, made a good beginning in the city of Madras with the establishment of Connemara Public Library.

On the eve of the laying of the foundation stone of the Connemara Public Library, Lord Connemara, the then Governor of Madras province addressed the public as given below:

"Ladies and Gentlemen! it has been for long time, the wish of my colleagues and myself to see a free public library established in Madras. We recognise it for a long time as one of the most urgent wants of the educated people of this Presidency town. In all popular places, a free public library is a very urgent one and I am quite sure that where a great number of students and educated natures of India have not got the means of

providing themselves with books that one needed for their studies, in their business, a want of this kind is very deeply felt. I trust that this want will be supplied by the free public library of the building of which I am now going to lay the foundation stone." This speech encouraged eminent Indian leaders and social workers in the establishment of public libraries throughout Tamil Nadu.

2 LITERARY INSTITUTE LIBRARY OF NAMAKKAL

The educated population of Namakkal thought of establishing a public library for the promotion of education. Lawyers, great writers of Tamil poems, teachers etc joined in the venture of fulfilling the long cherished dream of the public. For that they secured a suitable building site on the Mohanur Main Road, opposite to the Taluk office and the foundation stone was laid by Mrs.Richards in 1903. This library building was named as Victoria Memorial Hall in 1907 and run by subscription. To maintain and develop the library service to the public, a committee was organised and this was headed by a president and secretary both elected by the committee. This library was registered under the society's Act 1860 in the year 1927 for the purpose of recognition as a public library.

3 MUNICIPAL ACT OF 1919

The framers of Municipal Act also thought of providing free public library services in all municipal towns of Madras province.

For example, the Madras District Municipal Act of 1920 -- Schedule IV Part-II Finance Rule 40(b), provides room for the establishment of public libraries to be financed by municipalities, It reads as follows:

The objectives of expenditure connected in the public convenience, education and amenities include-

Subject to rules 47 to 52 (the establishment and maintenance of schools and hostels, the construction and maintenance of school houses and hostel buildings) public libraries and reading rooms, museums, art galleries or any other institutions connected with the diffusion of mental or physical culture or technical instruction or the training of teachers.

In the same Act under schedule IV - Part II Finance Rules 52 (IV) the following are provided:-

The council may also provide wholly from the Municipal funds by means of grant-in-aid therefrom for the maintenance of public libraries, reading rooms, gymnasia or any other institutions connected with the diffusing of education. Which may be approved by State Government.

To initiate the establishment of public libraries, the Madras Government provided a grant of Rs.20,000 for the cause of public libraries at the effort of Desabhakta Konda Venkatappaiah.

4. READING CIRCLE AND BOOK LOVERS ASSOCIATION (1919)

The elites of Madras organised reading circles for the promotion of knowledge. To spread and inculcate the book reading habits in the mind of public, book lovers association was established in Madras. These organisation functioned remarkably by undertaking reading service to illiterates, telling stories, circulating books by voluntary social workers. Students and social workers joined in this venture.

5. MADRAS PUSTAKALAYA PROPAGANDA ASSOCIATION

A Public Library Conference took place at Gokale Hall in Madras on the 14th November, 1919, with the concern of Lord Welington, the then Governor of Madras. Mr.Janarthan Kudalkar of Baroda prisided over the function and narrated how the British People succeeded in the enactment of Public Library Act in 1850. Ultimately, the conference resolved to establish All India Public Library Association and materialised by organising it with its head quarter at Vijayawada. This conference set momentum in the minds of the elites of Madras and working librarians to organise a state level library association. At this juncture, S.R.Ranganathan was appointed as university librarian of Madras

University in 1924. After his return from England, he took active interest in the promotion of public libraries in Tamil nadu. His conxtributions in the development of library in India are well known at the international level.

When the fourth All- India Public Library conference was held in Madras in December, 1927 (which syncrinised with the conference of Indian National Congress held in Madras), an eminent advocate Mr. K.V.Krishnaswamy Iyyar and Ranganathan acted as Convenor and Secretary, respectively of the receiption Committee.

After the conference, Krishnaswamy Iyyar and Ranganathan urged the elites of Madras the need for establishing similar association in Madras. This led to the germination of Madras Pustakalaya Association in 1927. Since there was some difference of opinion in the organisation of the association further effort was made in this connection.

6 MADRAS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Krishnaswamy Iyyar and Ranganathan took much initiatives in the organisation of a State Library Association. A first formal meeting of elites was held in the residence of the advocate at Mylapore on the 2nd January, 1928 and the second meeting was held on the 7th January, 1928 in the house of another enthusiastic advocate Mr.T.R.Venkatarama Sastri. In the 3rd meeting at the house of Krishnaswamy Iyyar it was decided to organise Madras Library Association.

On the 30th January, 1928 in the University of Madras a meeting was organised under the Chair of the then high court judge Mr.V.V.Srinivasa Iyyar and nearly 45 members attended to it. After lofty discussion the meeting resolved to organise the Madras Library Association with Krishnaswamy Iyyar as President and S.R. Ranganathan, S.M.Facil of Postal Department and advocate K.Bala-subramania Iyyar as Secretaries, with 35 executive members.

The objectives of the Madras Library Association as given below, testify the achievement of the association under the dynamic personalities of Dr.S.R.Ranganathan.

1. Organise and do prapaganda work to further the cause of the library movement in the city and in the Presidency of Madras;

2. Organise library talk, lantern lecture, cinema shows etc that are conducive to the promotion of the library movement among the masses;

3. Give advice and assistance to all who are interested in the establishment, extension and development of libraries;

4. Encourage the formation of district and taluk library associations and afficiate them to itself;

5. Encourage and aid the better utilisation of the existing library facilities;

6. Establish and promote the establishment of libraries in the city of Madras in the urban and rural areas of the Presidency.

This association undertook library extension activities in the suburban areas and nearby chengleput district village. Social workers came forward to serve the people. This ass ociation has been striving since then for the betterment of public library services in the state and has published many books relating to library activities. The emblem of the association containing Goddess Saraswathi with the catch words "To be literate is to possess the cow of plenty" indicates its role in the dissemination of knowledge.

7. MANNARGUDI TRAVELLING BULLOCK CART LIBRARY

Apart from elites groups, individuals also took keen interest in educating the people of Tamil Nadu. In Mannargudi, a town in Tanjore district of Tamil Nadu, an eminent social worker and patriot and engineer by name Mr.S.V.Kanagasabhai Pillai was running 'Caumara Gurukulam ' School for the adults. Inspired by the dream picture of Ranganathan be designed a double bullack-cart travelling library for the spread of knowledge to the rural community and provided the capital for the up-keep of the travelling library including the cost of initial stock of books.

This library was inaugurated by Ranganathan at the Village Melavasal, five miles from Mannargudi at 5.00p.m. on the Wednesday 21st October, 1931 a nd this was presided over by R.P.Sethu Pillai, the then Lecturer in Tamil, Annamalai University.

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21-8 This travelling library travelled every day twelve miles around Mannargudi and nearby villages. Educated villagers and students helped in the running of library. By 1932 about 75 villages within the contemplated area had been made service point. This library travelled 275 times with 3,782 books and issued nearly 20,000 books to the villagers.

8. VILVARAYANATTAM TRAVELLING LIBRARY

8 The example of Mannargudi led to the opening of similar travelling library on the 12th July, 1932 at Vilvarayanattam, a village in South Arcot district. The persons responsible for running this travelling library around the nearby villages were T.V.Apparsundara Mudaliar, D.E.O. and G.Vilvarcy, Deputy Inspector of School who later became the Special Officer for public libraries in Tamil Nadu.

Within five months, this library provided service to 1,649 readers and issued 2,379 books. A tri-cycle travelling library was also run in this area. In 1933, this library along with Mannargudi travelling library participated in the Mahamaham fair held at Kumbakonam to exhibit them to the public. Later these libraries travelled to Andhra to participate in Public Library Conference.

9. TANJORE TRAVELLING LIBRARY

Under the rural reconstruction scheme, the District Board of Tanjore opened a travelling library on the 7th May, 1936.

Between 9th July and 31st December, 1938 this travelling library visited 471 villages scattered in six taluks. In these areas, it travelled about 12,000 miles with a stock of 1,380 volumes providing service to about 17,000 villagers. As a result of its stimulation. 17 villagers opened their own local libraries and reading rooms.

10. VEGAVATHY TRAVELLING LIBRARY

The District board of Madurai established a Vegavathy ashramam at Andipatti under the rural reconstruction scheme. This ashrmam organised a bullock cart travelling library for the villagers dewelling around Andipatti. With the untiring effort of Smt. Venkatalakshmi Ammal, wife of eminent patriot Mr. Balasubramania Ayyar, it was opened in Andipatti on the 17th May, 1936. This bullock cart library was called Gnanaratham (Chariot of Wisdom). It had a stock of 730 books and served about 4,000 families living in 25 villages. Out of a population of about 25,000 about 4,000 had used the books. The total number of visitors paid in the year was about 276.

11. GNANARATHAM OF MADURAI DISTRICT

The introduction of Delivery Station services with a librachine called Gnanaratham by the Madurai District Board in Madras State in October, 1939 is a landmark. It was inaugurated by Prof. K. S. Srikantan of Madurai College and also member of Madras Library Association. It was designed to provide seating accom-

dation for seven passengers and various auxiliaries like gramaphone, magic lanterns and slide boxes in addition to its being filled with book shelves all round it. The travelling librarian invariablly travelled in it. With 737 books, this library travelled ten miles daily to twenty five villages serving 3301 readers and delivered in 276 travels about 3407 books. Professor Srikantam took keen interest in delivering library lectures by visiting each and every village.

12. SCHOOL LIBRARIES SERVING THE PUBLIC

In Tamil Nadu, efforts were made to enact Public Library Act . Due to foreign rule and the inadequate finance, the government of Tamil Nadu made arrangement to spread library service to the rural comminity. The government issued an order No.1421 dated 22-6-19 39 through the Education Department to keep open all school libraries after the school hours for the public use. Each village had a local library committee with the school Headmaster as its Secretary. He took charge of books received from the mobile van and distributed to the public and returned them every month. He also used to send a quarterly report to the District Library . The mobile van carrying some ten to twenty circulation boxes each filled with about 50 books travelled at least twenty days a month. In that way all the taluks were covered by mbile library service. The van rolled 9,497 miles in 1941. District Board books were

also served to the villages having no school against a deposit. of Rs.50 by the village association. Each village got atleast a weeks notice of the date of the visit of the van.

13. THOLASAMPATTI COOPERATIVE SOCIETY LIBRARY

The Government of Madras encouraged the cooperative societies in the rural areas to provide library service to the rural people under rural reconstruction scheme. The people of Thilasampatti in Omalur Taluk of Salem organised a cooperative society for the promotion of agriculture and weaving community. Interested in the welfare of the soceity, it under took many social activities for the upliftment of life of the people of Tholasampatti. It believed that unless proper education was given to them, development in life and village could not be achieved. As a reult, it established schools for the children and organised adult education. To develop reading habit and self education throughout the life, the society opened a public library in its building on the 27th September, 1931. All the members of the society were made members of the library. In addition villagers in the nearly areas were also enrolled. The library procured books and Tamil magazines and served the people. Reading service in the evening such as reading Ramayana, Mahabharatha, Bhakta Vijaya etc to the public was provided. With a view to serve the villagers of remote area, the authority opened branch libraries at Omalur, Mecheri, Tharamangalam and Ellumman Patti.

14. MALLASAMUDRAM CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LIBRARY

Beihg motivated by the activities of Tholasampatti Cooperative Society, the people of Mallasamudram also established Cooperative society and registered on 17-11-1919 (Reg.No. 4091). This soceity established a library for the public in 1933 supported by subscription. The Madras Government provided a monthly grant of Rs.95 to this library during 1940-1945. Thereafter, it was functioning on the basis of subscription.

15. TINNEVELI PUBLIC LIBRARY

Once the Madras Governor by name A.E.Havlock was invited to Tinneveli. The public and the then Collector, Higgins organised a reception function for the governor and at the end of the function, the remaining public fund was utilised for the organisation of Tinneveli Public Library Society. This society further raised a public fund of worth Rs.3,000 and decided to build a public library near the St.Xavier College. Since the cost of the building was estimated Rs.6000, an eminent advocate of Sengotta by name S.Chattanatha Karaiyalar came forward to provide the required money. As a result on the 20th December, 1935, the foundation stone of the library was laid and was opened on the 13th November, 1936 by Lord Erskin, the then Governor of Madras. For the purchase of books Karaiyalar donated Rs.1000 to this library.

16. TOWARDS THE ENACTMENT OF MADRAS PUBLIC LIBRARY ACT

Dr.S.R.Ranganathan had been thinking in terms of developing a Model Library Bill since 1923. In 1930, the All India Educational Conference was held at Banaras to discuss/on the in the Library Session legislation of public library Act. Dr.Ranganathan prepared a 'Model Public Library Act' and presented in the Conference for discussion.

Sir, George Stanley, the then governor of Madras, while presiding over the 4th inaugural meeting of the Madras Library Association in March, 1931, gave an assurance to support it, when it would be introduced in the council. The Association was quick to act on this hint. Accordingly in June, 1931, a committee consisting of K.V.Krishnaswamy Iyyar, T.R.Venktarama Sastri and S.R.Ranganathan drafted a Bill with optional clauses in view of the fact of the compulsory clauses experienced in Bengal.

16.1 First Attempt

The Association circulated the Bill to all the Local Bodies and the press. In general everybody welcomed the measure. But daily newspaper Swarajya dated 22-10-1931 commented " A permissive Library Bill will not carry the movement far. Compulsion is the essence of the stimulus required if libraries are to become as popular and as influential as S.R.Ranganathan and the Madras Library Association intended them to be. In no enterprise affecting the public welfare, should the good be allowed

to become an enemy of the better. We would therefore urge the framers of the Madras Library Bill to overhaul its permissive provisions and introduce into it the element of compulsion without which the bill is sure to become deceptive and ineffective".

However, thirteen District Boards, 30 municipalities and 61 taluk boards expressed by resolution their willingness to accept the Bill and to implement it, should it become law.

In 1932, Sami Venkatachalam, Chettiar, Basheer Ahmed Sayeed and Hameed Khan (all were members of the Association and also members of the Legislature) gave notice of the Bill.

In August, 1933, the Bill was introduced into the Legislature by Basheer Ahmed Sayeed. On the 10th November, 1933, K.V. Krishnaswamy Ayyar, and W.Erlam Smith, the then Director of Public Instruction were ~~xxxxxxx~~ appointed expert members of the legislature for the consideration of the Bill. On the same day, the Bill was referred to a Select Committee of 37 members.

The Select Committee's report was presented to the legislature in 1934. Since the Local Self Government Department desired to have a part of the fund collected under the act for the payment of staff of the local self government department, the Madras Library Association did not accept this amendment and so the Bill did not move further.

16.2 Second Attempt

In October, 1937 Basheer Ahmed gave notice of a modified draft of the Bill. Since the popular ministry was installed in the Madras province (1937), the Bill was about to be introduced with certain modifications. But the Governor, Lord Erskin, refused permission for the introduction of this Bill. In his address to the Annual Meeting of the Association on the 28th March, 1938 as the Governor of Madras said,"I fully agree to the need for extending the library service throughout the urban and rural areas and for encouraging reading as an educative aid to democracy and in order to stop people from relapsing to illiteracy ... I should like to explain that the main reason why the recent public libraries Bill had to be opposed was the fact that it was likely to throw additional burden on the finances of the Presidency. This turned out the Bill from enactment.

16.3 Third attempt

With the help of Hon'ble Dr.P.Subbarayan, the then Minister for Education in 1941 Library Movement was set and as a result the Government of Madras in its G.O.No.1178 dated 30-7-41 sanctioned a sum of Rs.35,000 to be distributed as grants to the public libraries.

In 1945, Dr.S.R.Ranganathan, with the help of the Minister for Education Hon'ble Avinashilingam Chettiar succeeded to have the Bill in the statue Book for discussion in the Madras Legislative Council. Finally the Bill was published on the 9th

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December, 1945 in the St.Fort George Gazettee of Madras, with much modifications.

In 1948, the Bill was introduced with much further modification. Though Ranganathan was not whole-heartedly supporting the modified bill, he finally accepted this weak legislation in his enthusiasm to have the Madras Public Libraries Act. However, the minister assured him that its defect would be removed to a great extent by framing suitable rules.

In 1949, the Bill was further modified by the Select Commitee and finally became the Madras Public Libraries Act XXIV of 1948 . On the 29th January, 1949 and was published in the St. Fort George Gazetee of Madras on the 8th February 1949. While the minister resigned his post, the Bill was delayed for a year and finally enacted as Madras Public Libraries Act. On the 28th February, 1950. Thus the first public libraries act, in India was achieved with so much trouble and confusion.

CONCLUSION

The Madras Public Libra ries Act, 1948 inspired the other states of India to have similar Acts. Ranganathan drafted various states Libraries Act for Kerala , Mysore, Andhra etc. As a result Andhra Pradesh Public Libraries Act in 1960, Mysore Public Libraries Act in 1965, Maharashtra Public Libraries Act in 1967 etc emerged out. Other states are still in the making of the Public Libraries Act.

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TOWARDS A DYNAMIC AND RADIANT PUBLIC LIBRARY MOVEMENT IN TAMIL NADU

*R.K. Seethapathy

TAMIL LIBRARY HERITAGE

Tamilnadu has a great and ancient cultural heritage, dealing back to Tholkappiam (7BC), the earliest extent grammer. The Sangam age was the golden age of Tamil literature (2BC-2AD) The classics in Pattupattu, Ettuthogai, Pathinan Kil Kanakku series xxx analysis the place, where there were collected, preserved and expatiated upon was called sangam or scholarly society.

Later, Libraries were maintained by Jain, Saiva and other religious instilutions. Thevaram was preserved in Chidambaram temple. The saraswathi Mahal library though its origin was its 16th Century as a vast collection of 14,000 manuscripts some of which data back to 19th Century. Rajah Serfoji was the Chief Architect of the library, who enriched if with paper manuscript, even in many European languages.

LIBRARY HISTORY IN MADRAS CITY

Later, the British organised a few libraries mostly for their recreationand edification and were mainly subscription financed. The Madras Literary society established a library in 1812

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The Connemara Public Library, the first ever public Library was started in on 22nd March 1860. Col. H.S. Olcott, President Theosophical founded the Adayar Library and Research Centre in 1886, Which was cultural oriented. With the development of the native presses and thepassing of press and Registration of Books Act, 1867 initial momentum was given to the Library movement. The Madras Mahajana Sabha Library, the YMIA library theRanada Library, Co-opetive union library are some of the oldest institution of the early 19th Century. The Madras University Library was started in 1907.

Seventy years ago, there was no public Library system in Tamilnadu State. Infact about a hundred and forty years ago, there was no public Library system in the modern sense in any part of the world.

In the modern sense of the term, a public Library socialise books and knowledge, it is maintained at public cost; and it serves every adult member of thepublic, without charging any fee directly. It is maintained from out of Tax paid by each citizens - not in themeasure of his books-needs, but in the measure of his taxable capacity.

MADRAS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

It was the last week of 1927, the fifth All India

Library conference was held in Madras. It was opened by Dr.P.Subbarayan, then the Chief Minister of Madras, In this connection, he also opened a Library exhibition arrange' in the Madras University Library. This was the first of its kind. Thiru. K.V.Krishna Ayyar was the Chairman of reception committee with Dr.S.R.Ranganathan as the Secretary. This conference released the trigger as it were, in the mind of Krishnaswamy Ayyar. He brought together a few minds to take steps to found the Madras Library Association, in order promote Library service in the state. Meeting, were held on 3,7, and 13 January 1928. Within less than one month, with his characteristics dynamism and thoughness of work, Krishnaswami Ayyar enrolled 200 members willing to subscribe to the foundation of theMadras Library Association. On 30th January 1928, these members met in the Senate Room of the Madras University, with theHonable Mr. Justice V.V.Srinivasa Ayyangar in the Chari, By the end that year 417 members were entrolled. Local bodies were addressed to provide Public Libraries under the enabling clause in the concerned Local Bodies Act. This is how the Madras Library Association and the Library movement of Madras began.

Even in 1928, the Association arranged for an intersive tour. The representatives addressed the publ'c in almost all tje important places in the state. Even within two years, this public relation activity produced a climate favourable for the inititation of a public Library system in the state. The development of this True Library service b theMadras University Library and by the sucess of theassociation in pursuading the Government to make the Connemera Public Library lend out books and upgrade the post of its Librarian

PUBLICATION

Another method used by the Association to bring the benefits. In public Library service to the notice of the

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public and to make them library-minded was the publication of two books.

1. Library movement by Divorse hand, 1920
2. Five Laws of Library science: B.S.R.Ranganathan in 1931.

The second book has now turned out to be a classic The laws formulated init have now become the basis for the thinking being done about library matters in several lands. This book contained a Model Public Libraries Act. This Act was discussed by the library section of the First All Asia education conference held at Banaras in 1930. Reprint of thisModel Public Libraries Act and copies of a phamplet were distributed widely. This stimulated the local bodies to pass urging the government to pass a public Librarias Act to the state.

LIBRARY MOVEMENT IN TAMIL NADU

In 1946 Sri T.Avinasilingam then the Education Minister showed interest library Bill. He introduced the Madras public Libraries Bill in the Legislature in 1947 to provide for the establishment of public Libraries in the state of Tamilnadu and the organisation of a comprehensive rural and urban library service. TheTamilnadu public Libraries Act was enacted in 1948. The first of its kind in India and was brought into force from first April 1950

As per this act, Local Library Authorities were consittubed one for the city of Madras and one for each Revenue District. Each Local Library Authority forms a separate unit and maintains a District Central Library and various Branch Libraries. The Local Library Authorities Consist of representatives of elected bodies like Municipalities and panchayats and nominated members. The Chairma of the LocalLibrary Authority is elected by the members ofthe local Library Authority from among themselves and he is the Chief Executive Authority. From 1950 the Director of Public Instrüction was helding the port of Director of public library and the District Educational officers were holding Ex-office secretary and local library Authorities.

From 1972 a separate department of public libraries was created. From 1977, full time District Library officers were appointed. Subsequently to the post of library Inspection, stock verification officers were created to render more servicing.

Every Local Library Authority shall levy library cess in the form a surcharge on the property tax or hous tax at the rate of 3 paise per whole rupee. From 1972 it has been enhanced to 5 paise. The Government gives to each Local Library Authority except Madras a matching grant equal to the amount of cess collected. Out of this matching grant 25% is given in thefform of books. Besides that the Govt., gives maintanance grant to the libraries opened under Five Year Plans.

Under theprovisions of the Act we are having the followingservice units:

Government Units:

State Central Library, Madras	1

Local Library Authorities

District Central Libraries	16
Branch Libraries	1484
Total	1501

T The Connemera Public Library, Madras which serves as the state Central Library has 390915 volumes in its sheives and has 25759 members. The Kavimani Nilayam Library at Nagercoil functioning under the Central of the Director of public Libraires has been functioning as District Centoal Library for Kanyakumari District with effect from 10.6.1982.

There are now 16 Local Library Authorities at the rate of one for each revenue district (including Kanyakumari District) having 16District Central Libraries and1484 Branch Libraries.

22-7

The libraries provide free service. In all the libraires in the State, "open Access system" is being followed readers have free acess to the books. Those who desire to take the books for home reading, are required to enroll themselves as members by paying a prescribed fee as acution deposit. This deposit of Rs.5/- is refundable and every member will be eligible to take one book at a time and can keep it for 14 days (2 weeks)

The total stock of books in all the libraries under the local library Authorities is about 1,04,76,539 andthe number of members is about 10,44,073 Non members can also consult books in all these libraries as the local library Authorities render free library service to the public.

There are 3323 persons on the rolls of the library Establishment. Government have provincialised their services with effect from 1.4.1982.

A Branch Library can be opened in a village with a population of 5,000 and above and they will be managed by full time librarian, In villages with apopulation of 1,000, Delivery station can be started with the help of school Teacher or other service minded persons who will be paid honorarium.

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Mobile Library service also is provided to serve remote villages. Libraries have also been opened in hospitals and (prisons) A scheme of circulating books to school children to provide opportunity of reading books other than school text books for secretaries and general knowledge is implemented.

SPECIAL FEAUTURES

1. A massive building programme for the construction of suitable libraries has been started. This scheme will be financed through the combined efforts of Local Library Authorities, Government and public suitable type designs have been evolved and buildings are constructed as per the needs of the locality.

2. Great stress is being paid on the provision of suitable, good quality books to all the libraries. Books satisfying the needs of various age groups and various sections of the society are purchased. Separate section for children women and students are being formed. Books for neolitirates also form an important part of each library. In addition to the centralised supply of books for the valur of 25% matching grant (i.e. 12% out of total Revenue Receipts of the Local Library Authorrity) each local library Authority has been empowered to pruchase books and periodicals to the value of 12% of its income to serve the local needs and especially to serve the interests of the minorities

22-10

LIBRARY TRAINING:-

To render effective library service the staff should have sufficient library training. To give training to the librarians working in the Local Library Authorities, an Institute of library science was started from 1966 at Madras and Regional Institute of Library science at Madurai from 1982 .

Besides their periodical Refresher courses are conducted.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SERVICE

To coordinate the classification, Cataloging, Book selection and Reference service. The Tamil Nadu state Bibliography of Children's Literature and Tamil Nadu State Bibliography were started in January 1963 and July 1964 respectively,

The ultimate aim of the public library service "Best Reading for the greatest number at the least cost" is fulfilled successfully.

Like a butterfly emerging from its cocoon, the public library service has changed from a secluded place containing a few old books to one of the communities Chief source of knowledge.

The public Library Department of Tamil Nadu achieves the aim by providing free library service to all.

PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICE DURING 1984-85 AT A GLANCE

1.	Total Population of Tamil Nadu (1981)	4,82,97,456
1.1	Literate population	2,21,11,593
		Rs.
2.	Total Expenditure of the State	9,76,12,24,000
2.1	Percapita to total Population	202.11
3.	Expenditure on Education (Budget Estimate)	40,29,23,000
3.1	per capita to total population	8.34
3.2	per Capita to literate population	18.22
4.	Expenditure on library service	3,71,77,000
4.1	Per capita to total population	0.77
4.2	Per capita to literate population	1.68
4.3	per capita to total number of readers	1.11
4.4	Per capita to total members	34.75

ANALYSIS OF TAMIL NADU PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICES : 1984-1985

S. No.	District	Service unit	Sanct. post	Stock	visitors	Book Consultants.	Members	Lent	Total Books issued
1.	Connemara	1	144	3,90,915	3,22,621	9,67,863	25,759	1,45,313	11,14,176
2.	Chengleput	120	256	9,99,348	26,56,858	5,06,816	92,141	8,65,623	13,72,439
3.	Coimbatore	98	219	9,44,486	22,78,403	3,32,284	1,16,370	9,10,299	12,42,583
4.	Dharmapuri	38	99	2,17,405	8,60,358	97,883	38,064	1,63,231	2,61,114
5.	Madras	130	253	18,40,551	37,34,700	11,68,308	83,301	15,81,421	27,49,729
6.	Madurai	162	341	12,45,248	35,34,700	9,24,842	1,17,294	13,33,041	22,57,883
7.	Nilgiris	39	88	2,36,453	6,36,869	90,071	26,071	2,36,634	3,26,705
8.	North Arcot	91	186	5,02,684	24,56,422	8,80,241	67,154	5,56,628	14,36,869
9.	Periyar	101	159	7,50,915	15,02,501	2,58,619	70,220	5,90,766	8,49,383
10.	Pudukottai	28	59	1,33,333	4,99,392	1,42,067	16,247	1,07,046	2,49,913
11.	Ramanad	177	270	6,62,012	31,54,031	4,19,184	79,154	5,51,906	9,71,090
12.	Salem	86	247	6,19,236	21,20,637	3,57,272	33,856	8,50,598	12,07,870
13.	South Arcot	116	221	3,97,316	22,85,456	1,64,742	62,937	3,99,036	5,63,778
14.	Tanjore	102	267	7,01,972	28,88,439	10,11,511	96,270	13,78,519	23,90,030
15.	Tiruchy	94	249	5,92,934	10,40,739	3,47,251	55,708	14,62,238	8,09,489
16.	Tirunelveli	131	275	6,19,267	23,66,953	2,95,830	86,832	6,28,200	9,24,030
17.	Kanniyakumari	6	20	13,377	72,437	12,650	1,454	20,798	33,448
	Total	1,505	3,323	1,08,67,454	3,34,98,892	79,78,234	10,69,832	1,17,82,297	1,87,60,531

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7. Ranganathan(SR)
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Public Library System

9. Thillai Nayagam(V)
India Noolaga Iyakkiam.

INFORMATION SERVICES : A CHALLENGING TASK FOR PUBLIC LIBRARIES

P.K.Patil*

1 INTRODUCTION

As generally accepted any public library of importance has to establish itself as a living force for popular education and to operate as a dynamic instrument to fulfill general aims and objectives and in particular - " to providing active information service to give the user quick access to accurate information over the whole range of human knowledge".

To achieve these aims and objectives, the need of the hour is to adopt new structural arrangements based on comprehensive planning to meet the information needs of community. The modern world relies increasingly on an adequate supply and rapid flow of information. The concept "Knowledge is power" is very well understood by enlightened readers who frequently visit public libraries in search of information. It is pertinent to point out that information needs include not only facts and data, but also other types of information which can contribute to the quality of life and include all sphere of human activities. "Information like money yields power to those who have got it. And like money, the ways in which it is distributed

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will determine which group will be favoured and which deprived while discussing the political realities of urban scarcity and in-quality it is stated - in relation to urban problem information is the best multiplier we have available - the most critical commodity influencing change in the urban situation is information".[1]

In view of the importance of transfer of information to the society for its socio-economic development, this paper is intended to discuss some problems in designing suitable information system.

a) Staff and Man-power development

b) Resource mobilisation

c) Resource sharing and inter-linking

d) Role of state central library as information centre

d) Data collection and planned programme

2 STAFF AND MAN-POWER DEVELOPMENT

The effectiveness of any information service depends to a large extent upon the availability of competent professional staff, who could effectively render assistance to readers. Generally speaking, the professional staff must have expert knowledge of reference techniques and procedures and awareness

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1 Bundy, M.L. "Urban information and public libraries - a design for service" - Library Journal 97 (2) 15 Jan. 1972, 161-69.

of ever increasing knowledge of reference tools, books and non-book materials. Among other desirable traits, mental curiosity, energy initiative and good judgement are needed. There should be positive desire to learn. Skills and knowledge gives in search of technique in library school courses though basic in nature, are not sufficient to meet fully for any specific situation. So skills and knowledge must be developed 'on the job' with proper understanding of people and their variant problems, motivation and needs - those of different levels of education and possessing different psychological attitude, it is possible to establish realistic and worth-while community information system. Thus in-service training for the library personal assumes greater importance and such course be designed by experts to impart education and training in both technical as well as administrative aspects, of library service, so as to keep not only professional staff but other non-professionals abreast of current developments in the field of community Information Services. Besides it is necessary to encourage self-development and continued education of staff through staff meetings, individual conference etc. First and farmost task of modern system planning theory, is to estimate the total number of staff needed and to determine their qualifications and experience, so that appropriate information cells are created in each unit of the Library System.

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3 RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

As a result of increasing number of publications both in size and scope, with the advent of new technology - a veriety of new media available for collecting and disseminating information, the population explosion coupled with rapid changes in the structure of society, the continuous emphasis on the non-formal and distant education for the well being of the society etc. have all contributed in creating a formidable situation in organising public libraries for the benefit of users.

Information and resource should be systematically made available to the wide range of clientele - coming from different sectors of society. With the constaints of scare finance and other resources now felt, building a basic information services appropriate to the requirements of general public is no easy task. In a modern Public Library, collection consists of well-chosen primary and secondary sources of information including special materials such as micro-documents, gramaphone records, tapes, photographs, charts etc. Selection of these materials should be planned systematically in accordance with well-defined policies and procedure, so that the library authority will ensure providing adequate library resources, which are sufficient in number - range and quality to meet both general needs and the special requirements of adults, children and the handicapped. Keeping in view the demands of readers for uptodate

information, many developed countries need to use computer-based information system to search literature and other sources of information.

With the growing unemployment in the country and with the expansion of various educational and training facilities in the State, there is a large sector of readers who would like to gather information about the employment prospects and also prepare themselves for various competitive examinations. Hence the Career Information Centre will have to be started to collect at one place documents which would enable the personnel to give timely information to those who need the material for building up their career prospects.

In order to render effective community Information Service, efforts should be made to collect documents like maps, films, pictures and other materials which would give a complete picture of a particular City or District. The work produced by the local authors are also collected along with their photographs All socio-economic and educational aspects are considered in collecting such materials. A bibliography of such materials collected will have to be compiled by each unit. Thus ultimately paving way for compiling comprehensive bibliography for the State and for the Nation.

4 RESOURCE SHARING

The Public Library has some unique features. Information service must reach individuals of all ages, many interests and every degree of education. Reference Librarian's responsibility does not end with efforts to locate materials within the library, but frequently involves tracing out if any worth while sources of information available in other libraries. So that either materials be borrowed on inter-library loan or provide a referral service by directing the enquirer to approach an organisation, special library or individual specialist who could likely to help in satisfying the information needs.

With the development of swift communication, no single library however big can ever boast to be self-sufficient in terms of resources and services not even the British Library or the Library of Congress. It is necessary to encourage deliberate co-operation and co-ordination among the existing libraries Generally in the Indian context, resource sharing is mainly confined to inter-library loan system which forms just a part of the resources sharing. In practice, there is wider scope in pooling the resources and services of all types of libraries and information centres to meet the needs of the reader more efficiently as well as economically.

There are three important areas where it is possible to establish effective resource sharing capabilities depending upon local and national meeds: (1) in the field of acquisition activities either area-wise or discipline-wise, to procure books, non-book materials on methodical and rational basis under the Public Library System; (2) in establishing co-operative and centralised cataloguing where books and other materials are centrally processed and made available to other libraries; (3) in establishing depository centres of either less used or costly documents and making such documents available to the respective readers avoiding unnecessary duplications.

There are many more interesting and novel projects both at national and international levels in resource sharing but we can only plan such shcmes that will suit our local conditions, based on appropriate technology easily available within the country. Efforts should be made in establishing integrated development of Public Libraries by means of resource sharing(2).

5 ROLE OF STATE CENTRAL LIBRARY AS AN INFORMATION CENTRE

Provision of Public Library Service should be considered as part and parcel of the measures needed for the integrated rura reconstruction as well as a means to liquidate illiteracy as an

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2 Patil, P.K: "Public Libraries in Karnataka their scope and Developments" Dept. of Public Libraries, Govt. of Karnataka, Bangalore, 1982.

integral part of continuing Adult Education Programme. Though the Central Government is interested in developmental activities concerning rural reconstruction etc no substantial grants are specially earmarked in the field of p ublic library system. It is for the State Government to impress upon the Central Government and insist on regular grants by including such proposals under the planned programmes, seeking special assistance as part of the non-formal education.

The State Central Library is one of the most important State supported Libraries. It is to be elevated to a high level and should be called upon to perform such functions which are normally entrusted to a National Library of any country, but limiting the jurisdiction to the State. In terms of size of collection, staff, building and equipment and bibliographical service, it should compare favourably with the leading libraries of the world. A planned programme in this direction needs to be prepared with the help of experts so that it may be submitted to State Government.

When the State Central Library is equipped with proper reprographic equipments, collects comprehsnvie resources with the expert staff, the library can assume the responsibility of rendering the Legislative Reference Service promptly and efficiently for the benefit of Members belonging to both the Houses as well as to other Government Agencies in addition to the General Public who are already availing library service. In

due course of time, Computerised Information Retrieval System will have to be introduced to cope with the information explosion and appropriate preliminary work has to be started in right earnest forthwith.

6 DATA COLLECTION AND PLANNED PROGRAMME

A separate wing be established to collect data. The statistical data is essential in any planned and monitoring programmes. Libraries are no exception to the increasing complexity in management. The planning and monitoring of Public Library network needs data of several varieties such as:

a) The population data (size, growth, density etc)

b) The educational data (the literacy percentage, number of educational institutions etc)

c) The financial data (resource allocation, policies and programmes, tax pattern etc)

d) Publication data (language-wise and cost-wise distribution of publications)

e) Occupational data (information needs and demands of professionals)

f) Existence of other types of media and its impact on library service

g) Internal data is required to evaluate the performance of the library in relation to (i) Users(ii) Library materials (iii) Library staff.

The design of community information system is one of the most challenging and creative tasks in our fast changing society. Specially in view of the fact that India as a developing country is entering the 21st century and perhaps adopting high technology

for its socio-economic developments, it is increasingly necessary to build and strengthen the national information infrastructure which would facilitate quick and easy transfer of information within the country and link with other countries, thus solving the problem of information scarcity and its impact on technology transfer. Thus in order to identify information needs and resources, there is need to entrust the work of well trained information system analysts who wbuld undertakes the following functions:

a)" Analyse existing library policies, procedures, equipment, literature content, and human interfaces systematically in qualitative and quanti tative terms.

b) Design and implement new and/or improved library system in terms of the library's physical limitations, funds, personnel, available equipment and available techniques.

c) Co-ordinate these analyses and designs with the library's management and professional objectives. Act as technical adviser at the various levels of management in the evaluations.

d) Design, implement and operate management data systems that will provide library management, operating personnel, and designers with data to assist them in library control and evaluation.

e) Monitor and evaluate equipment, procedures, and new systems of potential value to the library.

f) Conduct technical liaison between the library and outside services, such as the institutions, computer facilities and equipment manufactures.

g) Train operating personnel and library management in the characteristics and operations of the library's newly installed systems, new equipment on the market, and new techniques being developed"[3]

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RURAL INFORMATION CENTERS

P.Gangadhara Rao**

INTRODUCTION

Knowledge, according to the Webster's Dictionary, is the direct perception, understanding, acquaintance with practical skill, information or learning. In whichever sense the word knowledge is used, it is relative to the particular time we refer. But at a given point of time knowledge of a particular aspect can be considered absolute. This may, apparently, seem contradictory but true since knowledge is basically cumulative and should necessarily be scientific.

Since knowledge is cumulative in nature, there is a need for its transfer from one generation to the next. In the history of man different methods of information transfer, relevant to the times, were discovered and made use of. Ofcourse the difference in methods of information transfer is not based on the temporal aspect alone but on geographic and other objective factors of history as well.

It is very difficult to identify the exact mode of transfer of information during the prehistoric period. One only can make reasonable or most plausible guess about it. The few evidences that we have about the pre historic life include the

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cave paintings which point out to the main concern of the then man - the uncertainity of the game and the magico-religious beliefs of that period. Perhaps the main mode of information transfer then was through direct perception.

Man, in the course of evolution, acquired the capacity to use spoken word and developed language as one of the most powerful tools to transfer and pass on information from one generation to the other through the word of mouth. But, again, this mode requires a direct perception. A distinct example for this mode is Vedas. Vedas are nothing but a description of the earliest social life and modes of living of the Indo-Aryan people. These Vedic verses survived for about four thousand years before they were put on paper. These verses, accompanied by their definite accents, timings and actions, have been carried from mouth to mouth till recent times, however becoming irrelevant by about 1500 BC from which period they remained exclusively ritualistic and source of livelihood for a particular class of the society in the later period. However, it is surprising to find a particular mode of transfer of "Knowledge" surviving for such a long period of time.

STORAGE AND RETRIEVAL

Man has used a variety of modes for transfer of information. The development of script, writing materials and more recently invention of printing and the development in this area have revolutionised the area of recording of information.

Transfer of information cannot be complete without the appropriate modes of storage and retrieval. From the times of clay tablets there were attempts made to classify and store them systematically. There were numerous libraries in Babylonia and Assyria where the clay tablet 'Manuscripts' were classified, kept in jars and arranged on shelves. The library at thabes of Rameses II (circa 1400 BC) is said to have contained some twenty thousand papyrus rolls. Aristotle (384-322 BC), who wrote an every branch of knowledge known at the time, is said to have scientifically arranged his book collection. In the later period there were many 'Public Libraries' opened, but after christianity became the state religion these public libraries went out of existence, and there started the monastic libraries. Again it was during the renaissance that many libraries were made accessible to public.

When it comes to the problem of retrieval there is no satisfactory answer for it even doday, though Konard Genser founded scientific bibliography with his <u>Bibliotheca Universalis</u> as early as 1545. The extensive use of paper made of wood pulp made possible wider distribution of printed material at low cost. In addition, the acceptance of the Dewey System of classification of knowledge made free access to book shelves possible around the end of last century. Journeying from the days of clay tablets and paper today we have reached a stage of paperless society where millions of pages of information can be

stored in microfilms in a room and can be retrieved. Now there are sophisticated computers available to store and retrieve information. Further advances such as the satellite communication system have come to stay to disseminate information.

INDIAN MASSES

About 80% of Indian population lives in rural areas. Indian masses are characterised by extrme differences in levels of living between different groups of people. Reasonable estimates suggest that more than 40% of Indian population is below the poverty line. There are many objective and some subjective factors for this state of affairs. "Errors, false starts and dead ends in the development story of the last three decades have brought about a fair degree of acceptance among the scholars of the view that growth should be judged by the contribution it makes to reduction of poverty, inequality and exploitation'.

RELATIVE ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Given the background of Indian masses, there is a good lot of difference in the exposure to information channels in terms of urban and rural folks. The public information system in India has developed very unevenly. This situation is linked to some objective historical factors. The imperialist British rulers developed a system of information transfer suitable to

their own needs. The accessibility to the information available was restricted. After obtaining independence, India has maintained this system inherited from the British in toto without any modification.

In the present context Indian society can be divided into "Information affluent" and "Information starving" categories in terms of their relative access to information. Urban areas with various libraries established by different institutions and agencies fall into the former category, while others without access to these channels of information fall under the latter category. In rural areas, where majority of India's population live, the information channels are hardly available. Be it a farmer or a doctor or a teacher who lives here, he is not in a position to have access to latest information regarding his profession or any other information in general.

There is an urgent need for levelling the uneven growth of information channels in urban and rural areas of India to minimise this 'private ignorance' about 'public information. There is a need for establishing information centres in the rural areas. These centres should be able to provide professional information to all the categories of people living in the rural areas. The areas whether rural or urban, should not make much of a difference when it comes to the accessibility to information. This can be achieved only

through the rural information centres and the extensive use of mass media such as radio, television and video systems.

MASS MEDIA

With the invention and popularisation of radio there came into existence a potential tool to disseminate information at a mass level, be it literate mass or otherwise. Radio has literally replaced the "written word" with "spoken word". The introduction of television has literally made it possible to have information through the direct perception.

COMMUNICATION AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

If the constitutional proclamation and the policy statements of Indian government are any guide to real planned action rather than mere pass words, then it should logically follow that the common man of this nation should have equal access to the knowledge and information that is required to make life better. Knowledge cannot and should not be the exclusive preserve of the previleged. The equal access to knowledge at an international level, for which India is rightly fighting, should also form the criterion at home, to create a new information order.

The current technological expansion in India, especially in terms of mass media is phenomenal. The enormous number of T.V. transmitters commissioned in recent times, about one hundred and seventy or so in number, practically can reach

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75% of Indian population. If there is a will on the part of the powers that matter this very fact can profitably be utilised in developmental activities.

The mere facts that television is an instrument which can be used for information transfer through direct perception, the whole network of transmitters is controlled by a single agency and about three fourths of Indian population can be reached through this net work make television in the Indian context the most suitable instrument in improving the quality of life for rural poor. However, no laissez faire approach on the part of the planners and the people responsible for the execution of plans will solve the problem of transfer of knowledge to the people who have excluded themselves from the benefit of knowledge. It is imperative that the newly expanded network of T.V. transmitters, sattelite communication system and rural information centers can solve the problem of the traditional ignorance and fight with effect the obscurantism which has become part of life.

CONCLUSION

Under the prevailing circumstances the most efficient way of providing access to information to rural population is by establishing rural information centres as integral part of public library system in every state. These libraries should,

more than their urban counterparts, be well equipped with not only books and book like materials but also audio-visual materials and equipment. Without such a service it will be difficult to bridge the gap between the urban and rural areas interms of their access to information.

A well informed society is considered as a backbone for the survival of democracy. For that, transmission of information of public nature is indispensable not merely for urban population but also for rural population for acceptance, understanding and for publica action. Rural information centres with well equipped modern communication media are vital for the creation and development of well informed society in the rural areas.

RURAL PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICE IN PUNJAB : A STUDY 1884-1984

Jagtar Singh**

Education is a life-long process and its aim is to enable the human beings to develop their faculties in desired directions and scientific thinking among them. Unfortunately our educational system is such that most of the people focus their attention on the respective examinations and fail to understand the real purpose of education. As a result of this approach most of them get the desired degrees but start relapsing into ignorance about their areas of interest or subjects of study.

Once again it is emphasised that education is not confined to schools, colleges, universities and research institutions only, but it is a life long process. In other words, an individual remains involved in the process of self education throughout his life. The formal education comes to an end, when one leaves the formal educational institutions (i.e. schools, colleges, universities and research centres) but the real education starts when one adopts a particular pursuit or profession. For this purpose public library is the best agency, but the tragedy is that the Government has

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not so far put this service on the priority list of its development schemes. There are so many reasons for it. The most important one is that perhaps the government considers that it is not an essential service like other services, such as, health services, education, electricity, water supply etc. To an ordinary person, knowledge hunger is not as important as the actual hunger to feed one's stomach. Moreover, a person can do without a book, newspaper or magazine but a patient can not survive without the help of doctor.

In fact, poverty and illiteracy were the two main enemies of the development of public library service in the State. Another important factor was the heavy responsiblilty on the State Government to rehabilitate the persons, who were thrown out of west Punjab during the 1947 partition. So far the government has concentrated its attention more on other developmental schemes than the library service. The government has not been able to realize the need and importance of this service properly. Public library service is not a futile venture. Though it is an agreed fact that its benefits are not immediate, yet it helps to complement and supplement the formal education.

The only way to preserve and utilize the literacy is the development of an adequate public library service in the rural and urban areas of Punjab. Public library awakens the masses and helps them develop their skills. It helps in their health and social education. It removed the barriers of time and space and provides a missing link to the masses. It brings the ordinary persons in contact with the outer world. It raises the general public above communal, linguistic, regional and religious feelings. It develops scientific thinking among the masses and converts them into learned and culture citizens. It provides a State with conscious electorate who can best understand the policies and programmes of the state government. In short, public library generates peace and understanding among the masses.

Until the first half of 20th Century, there was no standard definition of public library available. It was in 1949, that the Unesco issued a public library manifesto and clearly stated in it that "the establishing and maintenance of public library is the task of government at national and local level" (1) It provided the world with a universally accepted definition and clearly stated that public library should be open to all without any discrimination and no subscription should be charged from the readers for its services. It further stated that it should be maintained by the public

out of the public funds. It is clearly stated in the Manifesto that a public library is a democratic institution a living force for education information and culture.

Hence, a public library should be a community centre for the masses. The masses reside in the rural areas. But the public library service in Punjab has so far been not able to cross the city and town walls. it is both dangerous and undemocratic to confine public library service to urban areas only.

Regarding the need of extending public library service to rural areas, Dr.S.R.Ramganathan writes that, "the country needs a new rural class and new conditions in the rural parts to keep them to their rural duties and functions. This necessitates inevitable books in the villages- books of all kinds - so that the long engagementless summer may be endurable and so that the inqurirng mind may find food ready to hand, without wandering to the towns to seek for it".[2] Highlighting the importance of public library service, he further writes that, "the edifice of free education for all children not backed by free book service for all adults is like a mudhouse without roof..... A permanent and continuous free book service for all can be ensured only by legislation".[3]

The government is providing free and compulsory education to all upto the age of 14 and adult education to the persons in the productive age group of 15-35. The government has spent huge amounts on these two ventures in contrast to the establishment, development and maintenance of rural public library service in the state. The point is, the provision of free basic education and adult education without free public library service to all will prove a futile effort. There are still persons in the state who are not in a postition to send their children to higher educational institutions after they pass the middle standard. Our objective is not only to spread literacy but to preserve it also. It is the responsibility of the State Government to save these neo-literates from relapsing into relative illiteracy.

Moreover, it is written in the constitution of India that the provison of adequate public library service is the responsibilty of the respective state. Then why to deny this constitutional provision. The government is supposed to preserve and socialize knowledge through public libraries. Public libraries have a number of benefits to the masses. A Publiclibrary awakens the masses by provoding them facilities for education, information, recreation, inspiration, knowledge, aesthetic appreciation, preservation of culture, cultivation

of reading habits and reading premises.

The public library in rural areas must focus its attention on the children and the adults. The literature according to their requirements should be produced in their particular languages. Public library today is not meant for literates only, its services are required to be oriented for illiterates also. The illiterates can be brought to the public library through the help on non-conventional documents such as radio-television, films, tape records, sound recordes, etc. The public library can take help from other government departments also for this purpose. In fact there is a severe need of integration of public library with National Adult Education Programme.

The non-conventional documents have a tremendous role to play in the life of illiterates. Regarding the importance of these documents, K.C.Harrison writes,"The recurring theme is that all literature should be available to all people freely, without fear or favour, through the medium of libraries. To this ideal, libraries should be prepared to cooperate with other influences, such as formal education, the press, the film, radio, television and other cultural agencies for the positive and intelligent use of leisure.". 4

The important developments in the field of public library service before partition were the establishment of punjab public Library, Lahore during 1884 and birth of punjab Library Association in 1916. But soon after its organization the Association bacame alsmost defunct. It was revived again during the year 1929 with the efforts of Rattan Chand Manchanda and from then onwards it organized a number of book festivals, seminars snd conferences. It published many documents also.

The other significant events were the setting up of Sardar Dayal Singh Majithia Public Free Library in 1908 and Dwarka Das Library in 1921.

Another library opendd before partition was Sir Ganga Ram Public Library. ' Modern Librarian', the first library journal was started during 1931. It stopped its publication in 1948 and another journal 'Indian Librarian' was started by Sant Ram Bhatia. This Periodical is still published by its editor from Jalandhar.

The Government deserves appreciation for the work it has done for the development of public library service in the State. The extension of the library service is not conspicuous, yet it pleases to learn that the government paid heed to this service regularly during the plan periods.

The state suffered a loss of the important libraries, Viz. punjab public Library, Lahore, Sardar Dayal Singh Majitha public free Library, Lahore, Sir Ganga Ram Public Library and Dwarka Das Library during the 1947 partition. The pakistan government did not care to transfer the collections of these libraries to the State of Punjab(India)

After partition, the Central Library Committee, punjab anddistrict Library Committees were constituted during the year 1950 in the State. The pepsu was merged with the State on November 1, 1956 and the benefit of this integration was that punjab got two public libraries to its share, Viz. District Library, Sangrur (1912) and Distrct Library, Nabha (1946). There were 376 village libraries in August 1947 and 762 village libraries during August 1950 though not libraries in the real sense of the term. During 1958-59 there was 5808 public libraries and 2825 reading rooms in all the 17districts of the state.

The state was reorganised on the linguistic basis on November 1, 1966 and the worst setback of this reorganisation was that one State Central Library and three district libraries were taken away from the parent state. These libraries were, T.S. Central State Library, Chandigarh (1955)

District Libraries at Ambala (1957) and Narnaul (1962) now in Harayana and the District Library, Dharamsala (1957) now in Himachal Pradesh.

The other libraries opened during the plan periods were as under: M.M. Central State Library, Patiala (1956) District Libraries at Jullundur (1956), Gurdaspur (1956), Ropar (1970), Kapurthala (1971), Hoshiarpur (1974), Bathinda (1974), Firozpur (1979), Faridkot (1980) and Amritsar (1982). There is no district library in Ludhiana District. The development of public library service could not cross the boundaries of district headquarters. In other words there are no libraries at the block and village levels.

The Government allocated Rs.10.72 lakhs; 18.50 lakhs; 2.22 lakhs; 3.20 lakhs, 15.33 lakhs and 37.00 lakhs during the six Five year Plans, respectively. This is very meagre amount as compared to the role and importance of public library system in the State.

The establishment, development and maintenance of state Central Library and District Libraries is put under the control of the DPI (Colleges), Punjab. The Department is already under the heavy burden of the work of its own institution. Moreover, the officer-Incharge of district

libraries is not a professionally qualified person. On the other hand the Statbd Central Library, Patiala and all the district libraries have failed to extend their services beyond the walls of their respective cities and towns. The State Central Library is not working as a copy right library and the district libraries are the district libraries only by name, as their services are confined to local readers only. All these libraries are suffering from the lack of adequate staff, functional building , sufficient finance, and collection etc.

The worst thing to know is that a few of the leaders of theprofession in the system are not adequately qualified for the post they are holding. There must be properly trained staff for these prestigious posts.

There are other departments and agencies also which are providing information service to the residents of the state. These are Rural Development and Panchayats Department, Indormation and Public Relations Department, Central Library Committee, Punjab; Raja Ram Mohan Roy library Foundation, Calcutta; Nehru Yuvak Kendras and voluntary organizations. But the problem is, that the services provided by these departments and agencies are dissipation of nations' energies and economic resources. Rural Development

and Panchayats Department is providing matching grants of Rs.500/- to 40 Panchayats every year by rotation. The Panchayats are required to purchase only those books which are recommended by the Central LibraryCommittee, Punjab. The grant is disbursed to the panchyats through BDPOs and these persons are at good rapport with the book sellers of their respective areas. These book sellers reach the village pac panchayatas with trash material, which remains dumped in their shops because of its uselessness to contribute anything positive. This is a very dangerous trend and it must be checked.

The information and Public Relations Department is a mouthpiece of the government policies and programmes. Hence, there is no scone of the availability of facts from the information centres opened by this department. The Central Library Committee, Punjab is a mere grant distributing and books recommending body. The official nomination dominates its structure. Neither the government has bothered to secure the advice of the Committee members sincerely, nor the members have any interest to do so for the development of public library service in the state. There is no headquarter of theCentral Library Committee in Punjab and no staff has been provided to it to keep its records in order. The proceedings of the Committee are stinking in the information and Public Relations Department, Punjab.

The budget of the Committee was very small in the beginning. it was Rs.30,000 only, but it is Rs.1,25,000 these days. The Committee organised a library seminar in 1974 in collaboration with the Language Department, Punjab. The Committee has been suggesting for the enactment of Library Legislation for the State from time to time, but the government failed to act because of the one reason or the other. The major reason for the non-implementation of the committee's suggestion is that there had never been a stable popular government in the State and the professionals had no influence on the state legislation.

The RRMRLF, Calcutta was set up by the government during the year 1972. It distributes books and equipment to libraries throughout the Union of India for the development of public library service. It has organised two seminars on library legislation and public library service in India respectively. Nehru Yuvak Kendras are transferring the books received from Raja Ram Mohan Roy Library Foundation, Calcutta to the village libraries only.

According to the District Gazetteers of the various districts of Punjab, most of the village Panchayats are maintaining libraries and reading rooms. But this is not true. Only a small number of books are stinking in the

boxes of most of the Panchayats in the State. Moreover, in most of the villages these books are lying with the village sarpanches or the members of the panchayats and the villagers dont like to use them because of their personal rivalry and prejudices.

Same is the case with the libraries opened by voluntary organizations. These libraries are suffering from the paucity of funds, non-availability of buildings, personnel etc. Punjab Library Association, which remained very active in the past is almost defunct now. The need of the hour is to consolidate all these rescurces. Moreover, the provision of public library service to the residents of the state is not obligarory for these departments rather it is one of their optional functions.

The Central Government has also shown some interest inthis direction. It opened Delhi Public Library during 1951 with the help of Unesco. It appointed an Advisory committee for Libraries in 1957 with K.P.Sinha as its Chariman to suggest measures for the development of Public Library service in the Union of India. It constituted a Committee for 'Model Public Libraries State Bill' in 1959 under the Chairmanship of M.D. Sen to prepare a model bill. This bill was circulated among the states of India by the Central Government during 1962-63.

The Union Government of India again formed a Working Group on Libraries with D.R.Kalia as its chariman to suggest a plan for Library Devlelppment in India. The Government founded Raja RamMohan Roy Library Foundation, Calcutta during the year 1972 and it has again constituted a working Group on Libraries during the Sixth Plan for preparing a scheme for the public library development in the country.

But there is no use of these scattered and uncoordinated efforts on the part of State and Central governments. There is strong need to adopt a system's approach for the development of a comprrhensive public library service in the rural and urban areas of the country and a thorough survey of the exixting resources of all types of rural libraries in Punjab, must be conducted by state Government. Detailed information regarding the resources and services of these libraries should be made available in the District Gazetteers, Village directories and Census of India, Punjab. It would be rather much better, if a special report of such a survey, if conducted, is made available to the public in printed book form. Regarding system's approach, F.A.Sharr writes that, "it may be confidently asserted that rural library service to be effective, must be organised on a network basis so that each library does not stand alone,

dependent on and limited by its own resources, but forms part of a system of libraries".

For this purpose all the States must enact library legislation. punjab State being a progressive state must take an inintiative in this direction at the earliest possible. No doubt, efforts have been made in the past, but without success. There is no scope for permissive library legislation these days. It must be compulsory in nature with top management, adminstrative set up, adequate financial provisions and the specification of the powers and responsibilities of library authority, council, Committees and libraries at different levels in the system. The functions of the libraries at different levels in the system must be clearly defined.

For this purpose, both the Central and State Governments should take the initiative. There should be proper authortities at State and Central levels. For the whole country, the Union Minister of Education should be the library authority and for the punjab State the Minister of education in the State should be the library authority. There should be an All India Library Council at the national Level and State Library council at State Level. These should be fairly representative bodies with advisiory functions.

The element of nominations in their formation must be the minimum possible. There should be district, block and village library committees to advise the library authorities on the development of public library service in the state.

For administrative set up, there should be divisions of public libraries and adult education in the Department of Culture, Ministry of Education with a division head at national level and a Directorate of Public Libraries and Adult Education with a Director at the State level. The Division Head in the Division of libraries and the Director in the Directorate of Public Libraries and Adult Education should be academically and professionally qualified. The Director must be a M.A., M.Lib.Sc., with a Second Division in both the degrees and Ph.D. in Library Science preferable on the subject of librarianship. The state Central Librarian should be M.A., M.Lib.Sc., with Second Division in both the degrees and preferably Ph.D. in Library Science. The District Librarian should be M.A., M.Lib.Sc. with Second Division in both degrees. The block librarian and mobile librarian should be either M.A., B.Lib.Sc. or B.A., M.Lib.Sc., with second Division in both thedegrees The professional seniors should be B.A., B.Lib.Sc. with Second Division in both the degrees and the professional juniors should be Matriculate with Certificate in Library Science with Second Division in both. They should be treated at par with other employees in the Education Department with regard to their salary and status. The suitable service condition and facilities should be provided to them.

The layout of the libraries in the system will be as follows: 1 State Central Library, 12 district libraries, 113 block libraries, 12188 service stations and 609 mobile library vans. 1 mobile van will cover 20 service stations (villages) on fortnightly basis. For the suggested Rural public Library System in thestate, the revenue district will be a viable unit of service at district level and block headquart at block level. Regarding the viability of a Revenue District, Dr.S.R.Ranganathan writes that "to have an independent public library system for free book service for all, viability requires that an area should have minimum finance. This requires, in this turnm that the area should have a minumum population. A small area with high population density andtaxable capacity can be a viable unit... to be viable , a non-city area should have a large area perhaps not less than a revenue district (country)"6.

Similarly, regarding the viability of a block, J.C. Mehta describes that, "because of large number of villages in India, we cannot dream of selfcontained village libraries in conceivable future. Suggestion is that a village should have a deposit type library... The block, being economically, culturally andlinguistically a homogeneous unit is most suited centre from where thevillage level library could be fed".7

The manpower requirements for the system will be as under: professionals 2218; unskilled 2352; clerical 852 and artisans 720.

As regards the finance for the system, approximately Rs.50 crores will be required for the implementation of the proposed plan. It is a huge amount and it cannot be raised by levying a library case. Moreever, in cess system, the major part of funds, that is three-fourths will be coming from the state and Central governments. Hence it is suggested not to levy a library cess as the people are already suffering under the burden of somany taxes. Above all the idea of levying cess will create an unfavourable opin-ion regarding the development of public library service, among the people The government should earmark 3% of the total budget of the State for the seventh Five Year Plan as more funds will be required at the initial stage for the implementation of the proposed plan. The plan is proposed to be fully implemented by 2000 A.D. For future, either 1% of the total budget or 6.25% of the Education Budget of the State should be earmarked for the development of public Library service in the State.

In the end it is again emphasised that in a democratic country like India, public library should be freely accessible to all without any discrimination of caste ,

colour, creed, age, sex, profes ion, status etc. It is the moral and constitutuonal responsiblility of the government to spread andret in literacy, preserve and socialize knowledge through public libraries. Public libraries should be integrated with National Adult Education Programme to consolidate the energies andeconomic resources of the state.

The provision of free and compulsory education upto the age of fourteen and adult education to the productive age group of 15-35 is not going to serve any positive purpose if not supolemented with comprehensive rural and urban public library service in the State on continuous basis. Only the public library can save the neo-literates from relapsing into relative illiteracy and develop the human resources on regular basis. No doubt, the benefits of public library will not be immediately visible, but in the long run these will be conspicuous in the form of conscious electorate and developed manpower. Hence, the State Government must enact suitable library legislation to develop the proposed Rural Public Library system in the State in the shortest possible time.

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PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICES IN MADRAS : A USERS' SURVEY

* Manorama Srinath

INTRODUCTION:

Adult Education is the most crucial problem in India, Where there are more than 400 Million (437 Million in 1981) iliterate adults . According to the statistics given by the world bank, in 2000 A.D., 54% of the world's illeterate population in the age group 15-19 would be in India (1)

Though much effort has been put in by the govt of India to promote adult education programme, it has not been very successful due to two major factors. The first one is the highrate of growth of population which nultifies the adult Education Progzammes, and the other factor is, the lack of proper motivation, which prevents the illeterates from active participation in adult education programmes.

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Our Govt, strongly believes that adult education programmes are very essential to bring about radical changes in the social, economics political life of our people. Dr.Mehta says that "Adult education as the basic cure for all India's ills......." 2) Therefore adult education may hold the key to our country's more stressing problems like over population, poverty, low production, infant moratality, industrial development etc.. It is strongly believed that through adult education these problems can be controlled by educating, the Mass and helping them to help themselves. The basic actor underlying adult education programme is to help the illiterate and those who have not had a proper education to help the illiterate and those who have not had a proper eduction to help themselves, to promote their own social, behavioural , economic and political conditions, by imparting education. Now the question is, who is to take this great responsibility of imparting education for the masses ? Though the Voluntary organizations and educational institutions have taken up this responsibility, it is not easy for these institutions to motivate the Masses to educate themselves, where most of them come from the lower strata of social and economic conditions and who are struggling to earn just to satisfy their mere physical needs.

One cannot expect a person who has worked very hard the whole da to attend night classes. So, wha is the alternati to attract or to motivate them to educate and who else ca share/the responsibility of educationg these unwilling pupils If an adult education is a person who is responsible for elping the adults to learn, then the librarians can play a ry important role in adult education. In fact most of the h den of the adult eductors, can be shared by the public Library aff. Though, no formal definition has been adopted for dult education in Libraries, it is understood that "the fundamental purpose of the public library is to provide the means of continuing education, and to encourge the most effective utilization of these means through programe of activities, whose effects are continuous andcumulative". (3) So any library staff can help an adult user realize his own potential by helping him to find the information he needs: further they can even motivate him to use the Library regularly.

2. THIS STUDY

In the paper the term 'adult education' has been used in a very general sense, This study has attempted to probe how far the public library system in Tamil Nadu is trying to satisfy this great responsibility. For this purpose, data has been collected firm the Connemmara Library and District

Central Library. A questionnaire has been designed to collect data from a herogenous group, who come from various educational, social and cultural back grounds. The questionnaires were distributed among two hundred user of public libraries in Madras city, in the age group of 18 and above.

3. SERVICES OFFERED BY THE PUBLIC LIBRARY IN TAMILNADU

3.1 CONNEMERA LIBRARY.

This library was opened in 1896 and in 1950, it was pronounced as state Central Library under the public library act. From 1954 onwards it is getting books under the Delivery of Books Act. It is intersting to know, that till 1928, the Madras University Library and Madras literary society Library were functioning in the premises of Connemara Library. This Library started lending service from 1930 onwards and here it is worth mentioning about its home delivery services which enables theusers of the Library to get the books without wasting their precious time in 'travelling all the way to the Library. By this service especially ladies who play the double role as career women and housewives are benefitted Most.

3.2 MADRAS DISTRICT CENTRAL LIBRARY

This Library started functioning in 1954 and the Library building in Mount Road was opened in 1964. One of the most important services offered by this Library is to help

the patients to forget about their illness by providing books in the hospital wards itself. This service was started from 1960 and now, patiente of Stanley Hospital, Kasturibai Hospital, Children's Hospital, Royapettah Hospital, Women and Children's Hospital, Employees State Insurance Hospital, Voluntary health service are enjoying this service according to the information given by theDepartment of public Library service in Tamil Nadu.

Apart from this service, books are issued to prisoners in the central Jail of Madras. Under this public library system some branchlibraries are functioning in the residential colonies of police man.

Members of branch libraries of certainareas of Madras City, that is Royapettah, Kodambakkam, Mandavelli etc are not only previleged to have branch Libraries in their own areas but they also enjoy home delivery services. Further the Library Services are extended through mobile van services and three wheel cariers, where there are no possibilities of opening branch libraries. The criteria of opening Branch Libraries in villages is that, the population should exceed 5,000. On the basis of this criteria libraries have been opened in more than 40 places under the sixth Five Year Plan and it is proposed to open in other areas in 1984-85.

Another notable service of the Gandhi Nagar Branch Libraries is the use of students to deliver books to the

to the members. By this service not only the members, but the students are also benefitted because of the wages they receive for their service. Apart form the general services like text book services and Reference service, a separate section for blind people, has been started in the Madras District CentralLibrary from 1980 onwards. Services are extended not only to indivuadual members but also to institutions which have to pay Rs.100/- to become member in this Library.

The following table gives the Statistics about the Branch Libraries and services offered upto 1985.

STATISTICS OF NUMBER OF BRANCH LIBRARIES IN MADRAS CITY

District Central Library	1
Circle Library	6
Branch Libraries	130
Mobile Libraries	2
Hospital Branch Libraries	8
Childrens Branch Libraries	7
Women and Children Hospital Libraries	2
Central Prison Library	1
Mental Hospital Branch Library	1
Slum Clearance Board Dwelling Libraries	5

Circle Libraries with xerox facilities

Ashok Nagar Thousand Lights Gandhi Nagar Branch Libraries District Central Libraries	4
Institutional Membership	49

Though The above analysis gives a picture to whatextent the public library provides services to its users in Madras City, it is also necessary to ascertain from the users how far those services are useful to them.

4. ANALYSIS OF THE DATA COLLECTED FROM THEPUBLIC

200 questionnaires were distributed, among that 37 persons did not respond to the questionnaire and some of them stated that they were not aware of any public Libraryexisting in their place of residence or their place of work. 163 samples responded to the questionnaire among them more than 50% said they were members of public library while others said, though they are non-members they use the library.

4.1. SEX AND AGE GROUP

From the data collected it is observed that 44% of the users are in the age group of 21 to 29. Only 6% of the users are above 50 years and the youth between 18 and 20 years constitute 12%. This appears to suggest a relation between age and use of libraries

The statistics does not show the same pattern among Men and Women. Among the age age group 18 to 20, 60% are female users. But above fifty years only 20% are women. Inother age groups also women are lesser than Men (i.e. 43% between 21 and 29 age group and 31% between the age group of 30 and 39.

4.2 QUALIFICATION OF MEMBERS

When the qualification of the sample was analysed it was found that graduates are using the Library more than under graduates and post graduates (i.e. 32%) undergraduates account for 25% of public library users. and readers with professional qualification constitute 25%

4.3. OCCUPATION

Public libraries were being used by people engaged in a variety of occupations. Among them 34% are office clerks, Assistants and Superintendents ; Professionals like engineers and lawyers account for 13%, while students form only 9%.

4.4. READING AS HOBBY

Among the sample most of them have different hobbies and only 35% consider reading books as their hobby.

4.5. FREQUENCY VISITS TO THE LIBRARIES

To find out the frequency of visits to the library, the users were asked whether they visit the library weekly once,

or weekly thrice or very often or rarely. More than 16% of the sample said they visit quite often and More than 15% said they go very rarely.

4.6. TYPE OF MATERIALS

Though the sample was fiction and general magazines were among the most sought after type of materials subject periodicals and subject bricks were used by a relatively small Porporationpf users.

5. INFERENCES AND RECOMMEDATIONS

The people can be further motivated to use the library if some more efforts are taken by the public library staff.

5.1. it is interesting to note from the study made by the American Library Association that the adults can be reached for the first time through contacts with the their children. The public library in Tamil Nadu can reach the adults by opening more children's section in the existing circle and branch libraries. In this aspect the GandhiNagar branch libraries. seems to have gone a stage ahead by employing the students to deliver the books to the Members. By this it fulfils four purposes namely not only the Members enjoy home delievery service, but at the same time, this programme helps the students to earn while learingin, motivates them to use the Library, and

this enthusiastic youth, can motivate their friends and relatives to use the Libraries.

5.2. It is suggested that xerox services should be introduced in all the branch Libraries, which will definitely reduce the pilferage of books and helps the users to a great extent who do not have much time to spend in Library.

5.3. More home delivery services will be whole heartedly welcomed by the women readers, who struggle to find time to visit the library due to their dual role as housewives and career women.

5.4. Services to people in hospitals, prisions etc., should be further increased. More branch libraries should be opened among the slum dwellers. To create an interest among the slum dwellers to read and write, it is suggested that the library staff themselves should read some stories for them, which have moral value and health care etc. And slowly this may create an interest in learning and using the library among the slum dwellers. Apart from conducting exhibition in the library premises some direct and Circle Libraries, allow people to conduct seminars and conferences. This is one of the ways to attract the readers to the Libraries.

5.5. Whenever a library branch is ipened it should be advertised in a such a way as to create some curiosity and interest among the people which will motivate them to visit

the library. More over the state and Central Government should realise that public Libraries can be effectively used in adult education programmes and take necessary steps to give training for the library staff adult education programme and provide more funds so as to use the full potential of the public library to promote adult education.

From this study it is consluded that awareness about the library among the public seems to be quite good. But lack of time and ignorace about the application of the information found in the books to the practical problems, are the major causes which prevent the public from using the library.

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THE USE OF FICTION IN A PUBLIC LIBRARY : A CASE STUDY

A.Amudhavalli**

1 INTRODUCTION

Every library has a unique user population. Public libraries have a wider and more heterogeneous audience than any other type of library. The characteristics of the user population influence library's collection and services, and a section of the library collection which accounts for 60% of the public library issues, warrants a study of its use pattern.

2 OBJECTIVES

This case study attempts to ascertain;

a) the quantum of fiction users of the total borrowers of the public library;

b) the use frequency of the different types of fiction; and

c) the relation between the sex, age and occupation of the fiction users and the type of fiction borrowed.

3 METHODOLOGY

Devanaya Pavanar District Central Library, Madras was chosen for this study, as it is a large public library situated at the heart of the city. The sample size of the users for the study was the total number of fiction borrowers, who visited the

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library to return the read fiction during the working hours of the day.

A Monday was chosen, assuming that after the week-end users will visit the library.

During the specific sampling period, every reader approaching the library's issue counter with a fiction for returning after use, was approached. Every one of them was interviewed. Few questions restricted to their age, occupation, the type and language of the fiction read and returned were asked.

The responses to the questions were elicited by the interviewers (library assistants of the concerned library). In this manner, responses were obtained from 200 fiction users. In addition to the data obtained through the survey, data regarding the library's total collection, quantum of fiction collection and total users' strength were also collected from the District Central Library.

The collected data is analysed and presented followed by the findings and suggestions.

4 ANALYSIS

About 62% of the total library collection is fiction collection. For the purpose of the study, the fiction collection is classified as follows:

Adventure and detective fiction; social fiction; historical fiction and science fiction. The distribution of fiction among these categories is presented in Table-1.

CATEGORY	NUMBER	%
Adventure/Detective Fiction	25437	23.3
Social Fiction	59403	55.0
Historical Fiction	17821	16.4
Science Fiction	5941	5.3
Total	108602	100.0

Social fiction is the largest group followed by adventure and and detective fiction (23%); historical fiction (16%) and science fiction (5%) respectively.

The major languages constituting the total library fiction collection are found to be Tamil, English, Malayalam, Telugu, Hindi and Kannada respectively.

The total membership of the library is 88,214. The total number of borrowers per day is found to be about 400. Out of this, 200 (50%) are found to be fiction users.

Table-2 shows that women (56%) constitute a much larger proportion of the fiction readers than men (44%). It also shows the distribution of them by age groups. The 20- 35 age group (49%) is the largest.

AGE AND SEX OF FICTION READERS

AGE	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	%
13-19	13	19	32	16
20-35	40	55	95	47.5
36-51	15	16	31	15.5
51-65	12	10	22	11.0
66 and above	8	12	20	10.0
Total	88/44%	112/56%	200	100.00

Table-3 reveals that the administrative staff (clerical) constitute the largest (23%) group of fiction readers. The skilled and unskilled workers account for 19% and 14% , students form 16%, while housewives account for 13%.

OCCUPATION OF THE FICTION READERS

OCCUPATIONAL GROUP	TOTAL	%
Professional	12	6.9
Managerial	18	9.0
Administrative Staff	46	23.0
Skilled	38	19.0
Unskilled	28	14.0
Housewife	26	13.0
Students	32	16.0
Total	200	100.0

The extent of use of different categories of fiction is shown in Table-4. Social fiction are found to be borrowed more (38%), followed by historical fiction (36%); adventure and detective fiction (19%) and science fiction (6%).

THE USE FREQUENCY OF FICTION

FICTION CATEGORY	TOTAL	%
Adventure and Detective Fiction	66	19.4
Social Fiction	130	38.2
Historical Fiction	124	36.4
Science Fiction	20	5.9
Total	340	100.0

Further, the returned fiction, when analysed by the language category (Table-5), reveal that the Tamil language (68%) scores over the other languages. English stands second with 15% followed by Malayalam, Telugu, Hindi and Kannada with 7%, 6% 3% and 2% respectively.

LANGUAGE-WISE DISTRIBUTION

LANGUAGES	TOTAL	%
Tamil	230	67.6
English	50	14.6
Malayalam	25	7.4
Telugu	20	5.9
Hindi	10	3.0
Kannada	5	1.5
Total	340	100.0

The relationship between the sex, age, and ocupation of the fiction readers with the categories of fiction used are shown in the Table-6,7,and 8.

SEX Vs. TYPE OF FICTION BORROWED

SEX	Adventure and Detective fiction	Social Fiction	Hist. Fict.	Science Fiction	Total
Male	30/20%	64/37%	60/36%	8/7%	162/100%
Female	36/18%	66/38%	64/35%	12/10%	178/100%
Total	66/17.7%	130/40%	124/36.4%	20/5.9%	340/100%

The adventure and detective fiction are read more by women (20%) Social fiction are read more by women (33%), while historical fiction are found to be read more by men (36%).

AGE Vs. TYPE OF FICTION BORROWED

AGE GROUP	Advent. & Detect. Fiction	Social Fiction	Historical Fiction	Science Fiction	Total
13-19	27/45%	13/21.7%	12/20%	13/13.3%	60/100%
20- 35	22/	75/43.9%	74	2/1.1%	173/100%
36-50	7/12.7%	20/36.4%	18/32.1%	10/18.2%	55/100%
51- 65	5/18.2%	12/44.8%	10/37%	-	27/100%
66 and above	5/20%	10/40%	10/40%	-	25/100%
To tal	66/17.7%	130/40%	124/36.4%	20/5.9%	340/100%

It is evident from the above table, that adventure and detective fiction are read more by the teen-age group, while social fiction are read, by and large, more by the 51-65 age group. Historical novels are borrowed more by 20-35 age. Science fiction is found to be more popular amongst the 36-50 age-group .

OCCUPATION Vs. TYPE OF FICTION BORROWED

Occupation	Advent. and Detect. fiction	Social Fiction	Historical Fiction	Science Fiction	Total
Profess-ional	2/14.1%	4/29%	2/14.1%	6/43%	14/100%
Managerial	-	4/44.4%	2/22.2%	3/33.4%	9/100%
Administrative Staff	9/13.3%	37/40.3%	44/50%	2/2.2%	92
Skilled	11/16.2%	29/42%	27/39%	2/3%	69
Unskilled	12/22.3%	26/43%	20/33%	1/1.7%	59
Housewife	-	23/57.5%	17/42.5	-	40
Students	32/56%	7/12.3%	12/21.4%	6/10.4%	57

Table shows that the adventure and detective fiction are borrowed more by students. Social fiction are borrowed more by house-wives, while historical fiction by administrative staff. Science fiction are found to be more popular amongst the professionals.

5 FINDINGS AND SUGGESTIONS

It is found out that 50% of the total user population are fiction users. Women constitute the single largest group (56%) of fiction readers in this library. The members in the age group of 20- 35 account for nearly 48% of the total fiction readers. By and large, the administrative staff form the majority of fiction readers amongst the various professional

groups. Social and historical fiction are found to be popular equally among fiction readers.

As expected, the adventure and detective fiction are found to be popular among the students. Social fiction are read more by house-wives, while historical fiction are read more by administrative staff. Science fiction is read relatively more by the professionals.

The distribution of the different types of fiction in the library's holding is found identical to the use pattern, excepting historical fiction collection. A large scale users' opinion survey is to be conducted with regard to the strength and weakness of social fiction and historical fiction in this library. The findings of such a survey would give a more meaningful evaluation of the collection.

Since, the study is based on a very small user group, it is not possible to generalise with regard to the use of fiction by the users. The distribution pattern may vary from place to place. A large scale state level survey would provide the data required for a balanced and needbased acquisition programme.

LOCAL LIBRARY AND DISTANCE EDUCATION

M.Shanmugam**

Distance education has come to stay as an alternate system. The successful implementation of this system depends on many factors, such as Radio, T.V., Audio and Video cassettes, mass communication, printing technology, support from the conventional system, political will, social acceptance and local library. The conditions in India are now becoming favaurable for distance education. This is especially true in respect of local library. In almost in all major Panchayats, Municipalities and Corporations local library has been established.

Local libraries have now become important centres for learning, informally and non-formally. This could be exploited well for the promotion of distance education.

An informal survey made by the author in Tamil Nadu reveals that considerable number of books are now available in the local libraries to suit most of the Under-Graduate courses in languages and social sciences. Students of distance education programmes visit local libraries often. Hence, there is a need to strenghten the local libraries.

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Local libraries can be further equipped systematically to help the students of distance education programmes. This will ensure life long education and make society learning continuously. Local bodies, State and Central Governments should consider local libraries as places for investment for the society.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES AND CHALLENGE OF EDUCATION

K.S.Raghavan**
P.Sankaralingam**

0 ABSTRACT

Key issues for consideration, the areas for development and the possible line of action indicated in the "Challenge of Education" issued as a policy perspective by the Ministry of of Education, Government of India, are examined with a view to bring out their implications for the public library system in the country. The inadequacies of the existing public library system in the country to meet the new demands that are likely to arise with the implementation of the envisaged policies and programmes are brought out. Measures for mobilizing resources to enable the public library system to meet these new demands are suggested.

1 INTRODUCTION

"Challenge of Education" is the title given to the document issued as a policy perspective by the Ministry of Education, Government of India. The document represents a major step in the process of reviewing and changing the education system in the country. It makes bold proposals many of which will have

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far reaching effects in reshaping and directing the system of education to meet the challenges of the future. Education should, ideally, be a tool for transformation of a static society into a dynamic one with a concern for and commitment to development and change. In this sense it is essentially concerned with future. The document issued by the Ministry of Education identifies certain key issues for consideration, areas for development and also indicate a possible line of action to correct the existing situation. The document recognises that no improvement can be realised by making marginal changes; "the system has to be resurrected by fundamental changes in priorities, contents, methodologies of teaching and learning, systems of evaluation, and management structures". Should the proposals envisaged in the document be implemented, the effective functioning of the system will depend, among other factors, on the availability of infrastructure facilities to support it.

1.1 OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this paper are:

a) to examine the implications of the proposals made in the document and the areas identified for development for the public library system in the country;

b) to bring out the inadequacies of the existing system of public library; and

c) to suggest measures for mobilizing resources to enable public libraries to meet these new demands.

2 GOALS OF EDUCATION SYSTEM

To begin with we can briefly enumerate the goals of the education system and identify the major problems in achieving these goals.

2.1 Elementary education is the most crucial stage of education spaning the first 7-8 years of schooling and laying the foundation for the personality, attitudes, values, habits, learning skills etc. This has been recognised from the very inception of our republic and the target of universal elementary education has been set. However, the drop out rate continues to be very high necessitating the refixing of the target year several times.

Therefore, the effort to spread elementary education is not confined to formal schooling. Non-formal education centres with a focus on pupils in the 9-14 age group, who cannot either join formal schooling or drop out pre-maturely have been set up with an enrollment exceeding 1.5 millions.

2.2 Adult education, particularly for the productive age group of 15-35, had been included as part of the minimum needs programme in the sixth plan. Two lakhs adult education centres have been opened all over the country with a coverage of nearly 6 million. Even with all these there are over 19 million illiterates in this age group and according to a World Bank report India will have half of illiterates in the world in this age group by 2000 A.D.

If the targets of universal elementary education by 1990 and eradication of illiteracy among the productive age group have to be realised, it is obvious that elementary education - both formal and non-formal - and adult education will have to be strengthened. Otherwise there is the danger of many of the products of these programmes lapsing into illiteracy.

2.3 Universal elementary education will have a definite impact on secondary education which in turn will have an impact on higher education. At present, though in-terms of absolute members we have a large system of higher education, only 4.8% of the relevant age group are enrolled in institutions of higher learning. But considering the fact that the unit cost of higher education is several times more than the unit cost of elementary education the impact of any increase in the enrollment in higher education would be tremendous. The document proposes alternative

approaches to tackle this problem:

a) vocationalization of higher secondary education;

b) restricting admission in the formal stream of higher education only to the meritorious; and

c) establishment of a nation wide system of distance education; this is particularly important as at present the undergraduate education seems to be a system of producing a large number of "unemployable resulting in wastage of scarce resources. The envisaged implementation of large scale distance learning system should relieve the pressure on undergradu.te programmes by taking care of the needs of all these students who are unable to enter the formal stream.

2.4 AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT

The foregoing review of the broad proposals suggested in the document enables identification of the following areas for development in the sphere of education in the foreseable future:

a) a great expansion in primary education to achieve the target of universal elementary education;

b) increased emphasis on non-formal education and adult education programmes to eradicate illiteracy;

The two will result in the emergence of a large population capable of reading and writing particularly in rural areas. It is imperative that this large group be provided with the suitable reading material in order to ensure that they do not lapse into illiteracy.

c) vocationalization of higher secondary education not only to relieve the pressure on undergraduate education but also to avoid wastage of scarce resources;

The impact will be production of a large number of trained skilled workers whose library requirements for continuing education will have to be met.

d) limiting entry in formal stream of higher education to only students with scholastic aptitude.

It would therefore be necessary to develop and implement distance learning system on a large scale to cater to the needs of those who cannot enter the formal higher education stream. Even at present the number of students enrolled in distance learning system is increasing and almost catching up with the number of students in the formal stream. The requirements of these students, scattered all over the country, in terms of text books, reference books, periodicals and other information material will have to be met.

3 PRESENT POSITION

Education is second highest sector of budgetted expenditure after defence in India. 3% of G.N.P is being spent on education as against 6% and above in most other countries. Even when a larger segment of G.N.P. is made available for education it will still be difficult to provide the infrastructure facilities required for implementing the above proposals. Besides, different agencies such as universities, adult education centres, non-formal education centres etc. will be responsible for implementing the various programmes. Even a single programme such as distance learning system will be implemented by a large number of universities. All these will make it difficult, if not impossible, for these agencies to make available the necessary library support. Even if an attempt should be made in this direction it will only result in large scale duplication of efforts and wastage of already limited resources. It, therefore, appears that the only viable solution to the problem of providing library support to the educational programmes envisaged in the document is to extend public library services to all these user groups.

4 EXISTING PUBLIC LIBRARY SET UP

There are, at present, many gaps in the public library set up in the country. Some of the more important problems are:-

a) lack of library legislation: more than 75% of the population are not covered by any library act;

b) even in states which have a library act the provisions have not been effectively and satisfactorily implemented;

c) attempts by public libraries in some states to cater to the needs of students are largely limited to urban areas;

d) public libraries both in urban areas and, to a greater extent, in rural areas have largely neglected the educational function of a library as a support system for non-formal education;

e) the collection in most public libraries is now limited purely to books - a vast majority of which are fiction - and audio visual material and text books and reference books constitute an insignificant proportion of the resources of any public library.

4.1 This being the state of affairs of the public libraries in the country one can hardly expect them to extend their services and activities to cater to the needs of the various emerging user groups. It must be noted here that in the foreseeable future these groups will account for a significant majority of the public library user population. The reasons for the existing state of affairs are not far to seek. A major hindrance

is the paucity of financial resources which makes it difficult to maintain even the existing level of services leave alone any expansion.

5. SUGGESTIONS

In order to establish and strengthen public library system it is imperative that there be public library legislation in all states and union territories. However, experience in the few states which have library legislation has shown that legislation by itself does not guarantee an efficient library service. Apart from making available whatever is due to the public library system (amount collected by way of cess, matching grant etc), it is necessary for both central and state government and other agencies responsible for implementing the proposed educational programmes to provide financial assistance to public libraries. For example, it will be only proper and fair on the part of institutes of correspondence education and open universities to set apart a certain portion of the revenue realised by them for allocation to public libraries, particularly in towns and villages where there is a concentration of students enrolled in distance education programmes. Similarly the state and central government should make available a portion of the money set apart for running non-formal education centres and adult education centres to public libraries. The public libraries in turn should utilise these resources for catering to the information needs of these user groups.

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RECOMMENDATIONS

In order to establish and strengthen public library system it is imperative that there be public library legislation in all states and union territories. However, experience in the few states which have library legislation has shown that legislation by itself does not guarantee an efficient library service. Apart from making available whatever is due to the public library system (cess collected by way of cess, matching grant etc), it is necessary for both central and state governments and other agencies responsible for implementing the various educational programmes to provide financial assistance to public libraries. For example, it will be only proper and fair on the part of institutes of correspondence education and open universities to set apart a certain portion of the revenue realised by them for grant-in-aid to public libraries, particularly in towns and villages where there is a concentration of students enrolled in distance education programmes. Similarly the state and central governments should make available a portion of the money set apart for running non-formal education centres and adult education centres to public libraries. The public libraries in turn should utilise these resources for catering to the information needs of these user groups.

14

PUBLIC LIBRARIES AND ADULT EDUCATION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO INDIA

K.Sarada**

Libraries and adult education constitute organic parts of a process which helps the liberation and advancement of the third world countries. They complement each other's institutional base and services (1) and are mutually interdependent. This institutional linkage of Adult Education Centre and rural libraries will take care of the problems of adult education, chiefly the problem of providing continuing education. In fact, this is the principal lesson of adult education programmes and library movement in Andhra in pre-independence period. The uniqueness of Andhra library movement is in part based on the inseparable institutionl linkage of the rural libraries and adult education centres.

After attaining independence the Madras Public Libraries Act (1948) came into force from April, 1950 and Andhra Pradesh Public Libraries Act came into force from April, 1960. Accordingly a network of Public Libraries had been established and library movement was in a sense taken up by the state government.

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This Change led to a sustained development of public libraries However, it is disconcerting to note that the Act did not lay down any specific goals and objectives to be pursued by public libraries in general and especially the role of public libraries in promoting adult literacy.

In our country where 80% of people are illiterate and cannot utilise library services provided in the form of reading materials, is it enough to be content with traditional library services ? Should not libraries address their services to all sections of the population ? If libraries intend to serve the entire population within their perview should they not think about serving the large number of illiterate adults ? In this context, what should be the role of libraries in promoting adult education ? These questions and issues require careful study. We may examine the approaches of professional bodies to these issues.

The premier professional bodies like the American Library Association (2) and Library Association (U.K.) (3) have been strongly supporting and advocating the concept of mutual linkage and association of the libraries and adult education. UNESCO, the conscience keeper of mankind in matters related to education and culture, has been pointing out the need to reorient library services to adult education programmes (4.) It is not proposed to analyse the

pedigree of the programmes that have been developed and implemented by these bodies to bring the libraries and adult education together. However, we may have to note the <u>raison d'etre</u> for these significant efforts and also their salient features and relevance.

The basis for the concern of these organisations to link adult education programmes with the library service is two-fold. First, the utility and significant role of adult education in modern world, and second, the educational function of library as a centre for information dissemination have been perceived by these bodies.

We may identify the varied shades of meaning of the concept of adult education. In the liberal tradition "Adult education is taken to mean those forms of education which are undertaken voluntarily by mature people and which have as their aim the development without <u>direct</u> regard to their vocational value, of personal abilities and aptitudes and the encouragement of social, moral and intellectual responsibility within the framework of local, national and world citizenship". (5) The vocational and problem solving role of adult education has been pointed out in the following passage. "Adult education is a process whereby persons who no longer attend school on a regular and full-time basis undertake sequential and organised activities with a consious

intention of bringing about changes in "information, Knowledge, understanding orskill, appreciation and aptitudes; or for the purposeof identifying and solving personal and community problems."(6) The contributions of adult education in the process of economic development and it's role in enabling changes are worth noting. We may appreciate adult education programmes as an essential aspect of citizenship training, and hence its universal and life-long process character. The Malmo Seminar highlighted the approaches to adult education from the perspectives of the individual learner and that of teaching agencies. "...., we may define adult education as the effort put-forth by a mature person to improve himself by acquiring new skills, information, understanding, attitudes or appreciations, or the effort of an agency to present the opportunity and the encouragement to mature persons for improving themselves or their community".7 Further -more , adult education will promote social justice by reducing inequalities within and among nations through reducing inequalities of information and knowledge distribution among citizens and nations. In its manifold aspects and impact, adult education is considered to be one of the doors for modernisation, technical and economic development, and social change and justice.

UNESCO has been strongly advocating the ideal of using public libraries in the promotion of adult education since 1949. Public library is described as a "Pratical demonstration of democracy's faith in universal education as continuing and life-long process". The recently revised public library Manifesto of UNESCO set out clearly "the role of public library as a living force for education, culture and information and as an essential agent for the fostering of peace and understanding between people and between nations."(8) The Library Association (U.K.) looks at the role of public library as an agency for transmission of culture.(9) It is hoped that the public library will reshape itself as a centre for implementing adult education programmes or as a coordinating body among those agencies that offer adult education services.

The A.L.A. and L.A. (U.K.) firmly subscibe to the opinion that public libraires are the most appropriate bodies to offer adult education services; and have definite professional responsibility to participate in the movement for adult education. Adult education programmes have become an integral part of librarianship in the developed and socialist countries.

It is widely acknowledged among the well-informed and sensitive professional circles that there is even greater

need and urgency to make libraries centres of adult education in the developing countries. Low rates of literacy and poor reading habits among the citizens of these countries do not provide a viable use-base for libraries. Programmes for expansion of opportunities for formal education are capital intensive, and alsoare contributing for growth of inequalities among people are poor, and do not have the capacity to identify and solve their problems. It is a vital task to address the librarianship to resolve the problems of economic and social development of these countries through the dissemination of appropriate information and referral services to people. The Malmo Seminar persuasively argues that "It is axiomatic that a library should be adapted to the environment it is designed to serve; that its contents should reflect the needs of a community; that its techniques should be suited to its users; and that its services should accord with a clear and pre-established programme. These are fundamental truths that every librarian must know and take into account."(10)

Adult education programmes should be the primary ta of public libraries. On the contrary, public libraries and adult education programmes are not linked together. This is attested by the following points. First the NAEP is not associated with the public libraires. Second the library profession as a body appears to be indifferent and reluctant to integrate the adult education programmes with the library

services . It is our immediate task to alter this tragic situation, and work for the merger of the NAEP with the public libraries. This is essential to enhance the capacity of citizens to solve their social, economic and cultural problems. It is also necessary to enhance the utility and status of library profession in the developing countries. The mutual institutional support and enrichment that will follow from the fusion of public libraries and NAEP has been pointed out earlier.(11.)

Libraries may develop different approaches to adult education programmes. First, libraries may organise user's advisory services, provide audio-visual aids, reading lists for specific group, etc. in support of adult education. The A.L.A. used this approach for sometime. Second, the library may accept adult education programmes as a core theme of librarianship, and organise its services and functions. UNESCO recommended the second approach to adult education . The context of libraries in developing countries also support the second approach. This approach may have varied consequence for librarianship, and transform the nature and character of librarianship in the long run. However, it is proposed to analyse the impact of system linkages between the libraries and adult education on two aspects of librarianship, Viz., the concept of library profession, and the nature of library services.

Professionalism is one of the indices of modern society. Librarianship has acquired professional status. Library profession has an identifiable core of abstract knowledge, specialised skills and tools, professional autonomy and monopoly. All these pre-requisites are useful and essential. They have been acquired as a result of prolonged and sustained efforts of the library personnel. Nonetheless, it is remarked that the professional attributes of library profession are negating the concept of social responsibility of librarianship. Further-more , the library profession is gradually becoming a static concept unable to incorporate the vast developments and changes that are generated and formulated in the modern society.

It is observed that any profession "as a social phenomenon, must interact with its environment".(12) In the context of the problems found in the developing countries the library profession should cultivate a new image for itself. The librarian plays a passive role in lending books and materials to the users. This is a legitimate role that the librarian performs, and it is based on several assumptions like the duty of the librarian in the acquisition and preservation of library materials, freedom of theuser in the selection of materials, etc. But this accepted role of the librarian is inadequate in developing countries.

The librarian should play an active role in his interactions with clientele groups in attracting users to the library and encouraging and guiding the users in utilishing library materials. This is a sensitive problem of professional ethics, and sometimes it may land the librarian in controversies. Yet, the situation in developing countries compel thelibrarian to launch himself into the course of an active role in promoting the use of library, and thus create a wider support base for the library. It is a great and difficult task to attract the illiterate and semi-literate people to the library, and createconfidence among them regarding the utility of library use. The librarian has a duty to employ his technical skills and tools to identify and resolve the problems faced by the people. The profession should re-define its role as an instrument to help the resolution of the basic social, economic and cultural problems of the developing societies. Social responsibility and involvement in community affairs is the concept that should inform the role of librarian in developing societies. Incorporation of adult education services may thus lead to a new professional identify for librarianship.(13)

In the context of adult education services, the techniques of library services should be simple, flexible and inexpensive. Basic and elementary procedures of classification and catalouging may be followed. Elaborate systems

of classification and cataloguing are superfluous. The interests of the groups of people and the problems of people in small communities maypermit a measure of innovation in simple schemes of classifisation, which may give satisfactory results.

The librarian also deals with the illiterate and semi literate people. Book lending may not be the chief function of librarian. Techniques of oral advice and group communication will be more useful and effective in this context. Oral advice and provision of information becomes an important task of the librarian. Library becomes a centre for dissemination of information and informal advice on a core of problems. Techniques of oral communication become useful. Demonstrative techniques through the employment of audio-visual aids will become effective means communication. It is observe that both the content of adult education services (agricultural techniques, health practices, child care, dietetics advice, scientific facts and procedures, etc.) and also the public of adult education services (semi-literate and illiterate people) require demonstrative techniques for effective communication. These are useful for conveying information to groups of people. The basic problem of modern society is how to convert the available knowledge into useful techniques for socia advancement. Demonstrative techniques and effective

means of group communication are more helpful in dealing with this problem. Public libraries will become centres for dissemination of information, and techniques of library services may have to be altered to promote this function. This kind of activity of public libraries will reach wider segments of society, who need library services most to improve their living standards, and also to make a modest contribution to reduce the range of poverty, ignorance, disease and inqquality in developing societies. Thus librarianship may be linked with the processes of increasing productivity and reducing inequality and injustice.

Another important aspect of library servicesincluding adult education programmes in developing societies is the problem of reaching the poorest strata of the communities. This strata, in addition to other factors, is also poor in gaining access to information and knowledge. They have low self-esteem and confidence and poor understanding of the socio-economic and techno-scientific environment. We have a variety of groups like women, scheduled tribes and castes, and groups of backward classes who are poor in information endowment due to social discrimination and inequalities. These groups need library services but they do not have access to library services. This is a function of multiple causation. They do not have educational skill to use library services. The present forms of library

services (books and other documents, service to those who visit libraries and seek help) are not appropriate means to reach them. The library profession has a great social responsibility to serve them and promote their awareness of self and society, and problem solving capacity. We have to develop new devices of librarianship to reach these groups. The members of these groups do not visit the libraries. Therefore, the library staff should reach them through the methods of community extension work. We should contact the informal community leaders of these groups , and through their support arrange for exhibitions, lectures, screening of films of recreational and educational value, and play records, etc. The out-door activity of library services addressed to these groups is equally significant.

We have noted that adult education is an important aspect of librarianship in developing countries. The acceptance of adult education services as a central aspect of librarianship leads to a qualitative change in the profile of library profession, and in the nature and goals of library services.

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PROBLEMS IN THE ASSESSMENT OF PUBLIC LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA

H.A.Khan*

1 INTRODUCTION

Public library development in India has been in progress since 1950 when the Madras Public Libraries Act (1948) was put into force. Since then Andhra Pradesh (1960), Karnataka (1965), Maharashtra (1967) and West Bengal (1979) have been striving to provide public library services to their citizens under law. Hence, the holding of a'National Seminar on Assessment of Public Library Development' is quite proper. I congratulate the organisers for the same.

It is advisable for one who wishes to engage in the assessment of public library development to appraise onself of the typical problems involved in such a task so that psychologically, physically and in other ways he is prepared to meet these problems.

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1.1 BASIS OF PROBLEMS

The presentation of the problems is based on the first hand experience of the author in undertaking three major investigations on public libraries in Karnataka and the other three library law states of south India. Hence, the views expressed here carry with them certain degree of reliability.

1.2 THE IDENTIFIED PROBLEMS

The problems, for convenience could be grouped as follows: lack of norms/standards; lack of primary documents; lack of basic records; lack of reliable data; bureaucracy; non-cooperation by the staff; non-cooperation by the users; lack of staff and financial resources; and absence of a coordinating agency. Let us now examine the nature of these problems.

2 NATURE OF PROBLEMS IN ASSESSMENT

2.1 LACK OF NORMS/STANDARDS

Any person who indulges in the evaluation of public libraries and their services should do so against a set of well established norms/standards. Such standards differ from country to country depending upon the socio-economic factors. For instance the per capita expenditure on a user of a public library in USA and India cannot be the same. Most of the western countries have evolved their own standards. But, in India, there has been more

discussion and no action. This poses a great handicap to an evaluator. In 1977, the Public Libraries Section of IFLA prepared a set of standards for public libraries, more particularly for the developing countries.[4] According to standards 24 and 25 of this document, there should be one public library unit for a population of 3,000.[5] In the absence of our own standards, this is the only criteria we can rely upon to assess the establishment of public libraries in the library law states. Yet, this standard excludes a large number of villages and hamlets having less than 3,000 population. Hence, the assessment becomes partial. Therefore, there is an urgent need to evolve our own standards for public libraries so that the assessment becomes more meaningful.

2.2 LACK OF PRIMARY DOCUMENTS

Primary documents like legislative Acts, annual report of the Departments of Public Libraries, Proceedings of the State Library Authority/Council, library development plans, etc. provide basic information to an assessor. But he faces a number of problems in obtaining them, of which the following three are note-worthy: (i) Delayed Publication (ii) Publication in regional languages (iii) Restricted access to such documents.

2.21 DELAYED PUBLICATIONS

Legislative Acts of the States and the annual reports of the Departments of Public Libraries are public documents which must be published as soon as they are passed by the legislative

assemblies or the state library authorities as the case may be. For instance, the W.Bengal Public Libraries Act enacted in 1979 is not yet available to the public openly. Further, in certain states like Karnataka, the annual reports are published one or two years after they are presented to the appropriate bodies. Again some states like Tamil Nadu give an abridged version of their annual reports to those who are interested on public library research.

2.22 PUBLICATION IN REGIONAL LANGUAGES

Lately, all the five states where library legislation is in force have begun publishing their annual reports of public libraries in their respective regional/state languages. It means a researcher has to acquaint himself with the regional languages of the states and then unearth the information contained in them; or else, he has to resort to translation. Both these are time consuming and costly activities which discourage a researcher. Therefore, it is suggested that a certain number of copies of these documents must be made available in English so that an average Indian or foreign researcher could know and understand their contents.

2.23 LACK OF AND IMPROPER BASIC RECORDS

It is expected that a public library must have its basic records like accession register, author and subject catalogues, building plans, circulation data, etc in order.

It is shocking to record that even the State Central Libraries, City/District Central Libraries do not have the author and subject catalogues updated; in some libraries the index cards do not give the required bibliographical information; circulation data is inadequate; and many public libraries have not preserved their building plans. Thus, lack of such information or improper information makes the assessment faulty and incomplete. Hence, it is necessary that all such records are maintained properly and updated periodically. District and City Central Libraries should have union catalogues of the holdings of all of their respective branch libraries, similarly, the State Central Library being an apex library of a State, must have a union catalogue of the holdings of all public libraries within its control. Such a measure not only facilitates the work of evaluation but also helps the public libraries in sharing their resources.

2.3 BUREAUCRACY

Another impediment which has to be faced by an investigator of public libraries is the bureaucratic behaviour of the Directors and their staff and at times even of the District Officers. The case of Tamil Nadu would be a classic example. When the author approached the Director of Public Libraries for the supply of basic data on public libraries in Tamil Nadu, officials took more than 6 months to comply with the request. By this time the author had made two personal visits to the Director's office and his colleagues had made several visits and phone calls.

Even then the data provided was incomplete. On the third visit, the author was told to send 60 copies of the questionnaire so that the Director's office could direct the District Officers to compile the requisite data and forward the same to the author. When this was done, only three District Officers complied with the Director's directive! Such bureaucratic attitudes are unhealthy for research, for assessment and therefore, for the development of public libraries. The author's experience with Karnataka and Maharashtra were similar.

2.4 LACK OF RELIABLE DATA

Even if an investigator succeeds in overcoming the above mentioned hurdles, he is in for a greater shock when he collects the requisite data from the field or the available primary sources and subjects the same for analysis. The data, at times are found to be quite unreliable. The following cases are presented in support of this contention:

CASE-1: Children's Literature in Maharashtra:

The data supplied by the office of the Director of Public Libraries, Maharashtra indicates that as on 1982-83 the total number of children's books was 8,10,000 whereas the Annual Report of the Department of Public Libraries mentions as 6,63,220. Such large differences in number nullify comparisons and the application of IFLA standards.

CASE -2: Staff strength in Maharashtra

The total staff strength of Public Libraries as given by the Director's office is 3,959. The same source gives categoriwise break-up as 59 professionals, 302 non-professionals and 2,758 as secretarial and other staff totalling 3,119 with a difference of 840! On enquiry the total figure given earlier was found to be incorrect! !

CASE- 3: Rate of visits per 100 Inhabitants

As per the data given by the offices of the Director of Public Libraries of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharastra, the rate of visits per 100 persons is 64,61,108 and 0.12 respectively. It means, in Karnataka for every 100 persons 108 visits are made to its public libraries. But the author did not find such high frequency of visits when he made the survey of these libraries. The obvious, inference is that the data given is questionable.

2.5 PRESENCE OF INCOMPLETE DATA

The annual reports are required to present a true index of the activities and services of the Department of Public Libraries. A close examination of the reports indicates that th hide more than what they reveal. For instance, although data on total number of borrowers are available, none of the four states indicate categorywise break-up like students/teachers, professi

housewives, unemployed youths, etc. So, which of the borrowers use public libraries most and which least is not known and therefore, one cannot infer much about their reading interests.

In respect of services, the reports indicate that children's services are rendered through public libraries. But Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka do not show the statistics on the number of stories told to children. Does it mean that in these states no story hours are conducted? or should one infer that the relevant data are not maintained!

Such type of examples may be presented in large number. All these point to the absence of complete information on the activities/services of the public libraries which in turn makes the evaluation in complete. These examples also indicate that data are not maintained properly by the public library units and the information is not gathered on a regular basis. Therefore, it is suggested that the Departments should formulate a format (in greater details) according to which the information is collected by each public library unit every 3 months and cumulated annually. Such cumulated data must be made available at the District, City and State Central Libraries.

2.6 ABSENCE OF A COORDINATING AGENCY

The above discussion (2.5) points to the absence of a coordinating agency at the State and the national level. State Central Library is ideally placed to undertake such work at the

State level. But in none of the four States surveyed by the author, such work is being done. However, it is to the credit of Andhra Pradesh that it comes nearer this role in so far asit insists on its District Library Officers to submit in certain details the data relating to the libraries under their control. Further, the coordinating agency should verify the reliability of the data submitted to it, compile and cumulate and circulate the same to all district/city libraries, library schools and all those interested in the promotion of public library development. It should also make available such information to the other State Central Libraries in India on reciprocal basis. At the national level, the work could be entrusted to the National Library of India.

Lack of such an agency at the State Level entailes unwanted hardship on researchers and evaluators.

2.7 NON-COOPERATION BY THE STAFF

A person who embarks upon evaluation of public library development has to rely heavily on the cooperation of staff members at various levels. This is true not only for data collection but in understanding the problems faced by them and their attempts to resolve them. Although a majority of them do extend such cooperation, there are sizeable number who exhibit i) irresponsive attitude (ii) avoidance attitude and (iii) a sense of fear.

2.71 IRRESPONSIVE ATTITUDE

The irresponsive attitude is evidenced when they show lack of interest in discussions or when they attempt to give vague answers to specific queries raised by the evaluator.

2.72 AVOIDANCE ATTITUDE

Avoiding meeting an evaluator is another modus operandi adopted by some. In a survey of rural libraries in Karnataka, research staff came across instances where inspite of prior intimation the librarian had bolted the library and remained out of station; In another case, the library was kept open but the librarian was not in chair; Yet, in another case Director of Public Libraries went on postponing the meeting with the evaluators for three consecutive days on certain pretexts. Such avoidance attitude dampen the enthusiasm of a research worker/evaluator.

2.73 SENSE OF FEAR AMONG STAFF

Some staff members have developed a sense of fear. They have the fear that by revealing the true state of affairs, they may be branded as inefficient and incompetent and therefore liable for disciplinary action. Undoutedly, such attitudes are quite unhealthy.

2.8 NON-COOPERATION BY USERS

Library users are the ultimate beneficiaries of all library operations and services. In the assessment of library services, their opinions are highly important. The value of libraries enhances in direct proportion to the number of satisfied users. Hence, the importance of user studies. Even here, an evaluator has to face on uphill task. The problems one comes across are: (i) lack of seriousness (ii) sense of fear; (iii) lack of courage in expressing one's opinions and (iv) lack knowledge as regards importance of user studies.

2.81 LACK OF SERIOUSNESS

When an evaluator tries to seek the opinion of library users by interviews, discussions or through questionnaires most users hesitate to give clear and precise answers. They prefer to remain vague and imprecise, some others take shelter under the statement "I do not know". If majority of the users resort to such view points, evaluator's hands get tied in inferriing any clear inferences. Thus, lack of seriousness on the part of users may jeopardise the fiddings/inferences of the evaluators.

2.82 SENSE OF FEAR AMONG USERS

Secondly, there also exists a sense of fear or inhibition among average public library users. Some of them at least feel that if they express their true opinions regarding the library services, the library staff may deprive them of whatever facilities they are at present enjoying. Here, both the evaluator and the library staff need to instill confidence among the users so that they feel free to express their opinions.

2.83 LACK OF COURAGE

Thirdly, there are ~~a group of~~ users who lack convictions and perhaps, therefore, lack courage to express their opinions eventhough they are assured that their identity will not be disclosed.

2.84 LACK OF KNOWLEDGE OF USER STUDIES

Fourthly, there are ~~a group of~~ users who do not attach much importance to user studies. Even some staff members also hold such a view! As a result of this, they just go through the formality of answering the question in an interview or a questionnaire. Hence, there is a need to educate the users regarding the importance of user studies.

2.9 LACK OF STAFF AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES

2.91 LACK OF SUITABLE STAFF

Assessment of public libraries is possible and effective if the staff engaged in it has adequate knowledge of public libraries. There are very few staff members who have a first hand experience or deeper knowledge of public libraries and have a research mind to undertake evaluative work. Further, in view of the problems discussed above one has to have strong motivation, involvement and a sense of dedication to withstand the pressure of these problems. Persons with such qualities are very few.

2.92 INADEQUATE FINANCE

Even if suitable staff members are available, there is the problem of meagre financial resources. Assessment could be done either by the evaluation cell or by specifically designated persons belonging to the Department; or it could be undertaken by a team of experts from outside; or a combination of these two alternatives. Further, as assessment of public libraries is a continuous function, a permanent agency with a regular flow of funds is feasible. At present none of the existing Acts have provided for such an agency and therefore, the issue of financial outlay hardly arises. Once in way some university departments of library science have involved in evaluative studies but due to lack of finance on a regular basis, this work is being done sporadically. Thus, lack of finance is one of the problem faced by evaluators.

3 AN OVERVIEW

Based on the field studies undertaken by the author certain problems (1.2) have been identified. Each of these problems have been explained in sections 2.1 to 2.9 Wherever feasible certain suggestions have been made to resolve these problems.

4 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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STAFF PATTERN IN A DISTRICT LIBRARY ORGANISATION

V.Venkatappaiah**

1. GENERAL FUNCTION

Universally accepted function of a modern public library is, that it is supposed to be a product of modern democracy and practical demonstration of democracy's faith in the Universal Education, as a life long process. If this function is to be fulfilled there should be sound library system, backed by an integrated national policy. Only Then there is a possibility of socio-economic development of the people, which includes growth of culture in general. The public libraries should not remain as newspaper reading centres or store house of books. They should be developed into dynamic institutions for establishing a new and enlightened social order.

2. AS PER THE ACTS

The Model Public Libraries Act drafted by Dr.S.R.Ranganathan, in the year 1930, "Espedient to provide for the establishment and maintenance of a system of public libraries, for a comprehension development and organisation of city, rural and other kinds of library service in the State of Grahtha jagat.

The Madras Public Libraries Act 1948, Andhra Pradesh Public Libraries Act 1960, Karnataka and Mysore Public Libraries Act 1965, and the Maharastra Public Libraries Act 1967, stressed the same in one sentence "establishment, organisation and the development of libraries in the State". Feeling that this object is not sufficient Gopal Rao Ekbote, the Retd. Justice of Andhra Pradesh who is the Chairman of the Review Committee (1978) recommended "Where as it is expedient to organise a State Library System for the purpose of fostering and promoting the spread of knowledge, education and culture, for strenghtening the forces of socialism, secularisim, democracy and rule of law and by fostering and promoting the establishment and operation of free public libraries, comprehensive and efficient service, providing to all the citizens of the state, equal opportunity of access, in rural as well as urban areas freely and for matters connected herewith".

To some extent this is also insufficient, for the reason, a comprehensive and efficient library service needs a policy at National and State level, which should spellout in clear terms about the aims and objects of library service. To implement this object, the State should pass library legislation. In India, an attempt is being made now to formulate the national policy on libraries, and it has yet to see the light of the day. Meanwhile, an attempt is made to formulate the norms for a staff

pattern particularly for a District Library Organisation with the existing Public Libraries Acts.

3. FUNCTIONS OF DISTRICT ORGANISATION

A District Library Organisation is responsible for providing library service in the district. It should open a District Central Library in the District head quarters, and Branch Libraries whereever necessary and possible. It should stock in the libraries the books, periodicals, and appoint necessary staff. It should provide buildings and equipment.

The Libraries under a district organisation will generally have the following sections:

S.No.	District Library	Branch Library
1.	Lending Section	Clubbed in One
2.	Reference Section	
3.	Text Book Section	--
4.	Children's Section	Clubbed in One
5.	Periodical Section	
6.	Audio Visual Section	--
7.	Technical Section	--

Besides this there is a need for administrative office for the district for controlling the affairs of the district library system. In Andhra Pradesh, Secretary, Zilla Grandhalaya Samastha, in Madras District Library Officer, in Karnatak Secretary, District Library Authority are the executive heads of the District Library Organisation. He works under the control of the Director of Public Libraries of the State. So, to fulfil the aims and objects of the district organisation, sufficient staff are necessary in the set up, which is in vogue in South India. At present we have:

1. Office of the District Local Library Authority or Zilla Grandhalaya Samastha
2. District Central Library at District Level and
3. Branch Libraries, and Book Deposit centres at town and village level.

4. STAFF PATTERN

Much hasbeen discussed in several seminars and work shops. Recently, a committee consisting of Sri Gopal Rao Ekbote Ret. Chief Justice, Andhra Pradesh, Sri M.Bhoj Reddy, Chairman City Grandhalaya Samastha, Dr.V.Venkatappaiah, Secretary, Zilla Grandhalaya Samastha recommended the following staff patern to the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

"Every Library or Branch Library should be headed by a qualified librarian, as mentioned above. NO UNQUALIFIED PERSON SHOULD BE IN-CHARGE OF A LIBRARY".

Every Branch Library, Wheather it is in a city or block area, should also have a Record Assistant. In case, where the visitors exceed 150 per day, for addition of 150 genuine visitors, an additional Record Assistant may be provided.

But, in no case the staff should be increased or decreased merely because the number of books has gone down or has gone up.

The District Central Library should have a senior Librarian who shall also work as Secretary to the Zilla Grandhalaya Samastha.

Besides that, there should be two senior Librarians, one to be in-charge of Technical Section and the other for the service section. One Junior Librarian will assist the Senior Librarian who is in-charge of Technical Section. Another Junior Librarian will assist the service work. As and whēn the new books are purchased for every 5,000 books or 1,000 titles, one additional Junior Librarian may be appointed. The ratio must be 1:3 between technical and non-technical employees.

The Zilla Grandhalaya Samastha should also have the following non-technical staff:

1. Typist, 1 Card Writer, 5 Record Assistants, 1 Attender,
2. Binders, 1 Operator (If the Audio-Visual Equipment is avaialble) and 1 Gardener : Total-12.

This ratio must be maintained

The Office of the Zilla Grandhalaya Samastha should have the following staff:

1 UD Clerk, 1 UD Accountant, 1 LD Clerk, 1 Typist, 2 Record Assistants, 1 Watchman, 1 Driver (If there is a vehicle) Total: 8.

The above staff is suggested when a Zilla Grandhalaya Samastha has a minimum of 25 branches. In case the number of Branch Libraries exceeds 25, for every additional 25 Branch Libraries one post of L.D.C. may be provided. The staff pattern should be rigidly followed".

While recommending this staff pattern the work load involved in the District Library Organisation, and the service to be rendered by this organisation to the public. The prior operational staff pattern is suggested, keeping its growth in view. If the Government accepts such a recommendation of the experts there is every possibility to render effective service at the district level, which is a basis for the socio-economic and cultural development of the State, as well asthe nation.

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FINANCING PUBLIC LIBRARIES - A CASE FOR CESS

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"Whenever you see a librarian himself forced to make a passionate plea for funds, you may set in down that in that community... there exists an imbalance of function".
-- Gerald W. Johnson

1. INTRODUCTION

Though the development and spread of Public Library service depends on a host of favourable factors, finding adequate financial resources has been a vexing problem especially in the developing countries. Once a begining is made to start this service several problems crop up in the implementation of the programmes. The government has a binding to provide free library service on the lines of education, public health etc. In practice it is not so. But, for historical reasons, the levy of cess a major source of revenue has been opted by a few Indian States. In what follows an attempt is made to study the various aspects of cess.

The various countries which have good library system have adopted one or the other of the following two modes of financing public libraries:

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1. by appropriation from general revenues; or

2. from special library rate or cess.

The former method of running libraries is prevalent in some of the states in the U.S.A. This may not suit India. The local bodies are already bearing a heavy financial burden in discharging their basic obligation, which exclude libraries. In Indian context, the levy of the cess has been found suitable with supplementary financial resources from the state and Central Governments.

Two opposing points of view relating to local sources of tax income for library support are (1) that the proceeds of a definite tax or rate should be earmarked for the library and that (2) the library should receive its support in the form of appropriations from the general revenues of the jurisdiction. The provisions of minimum/maximum range is common in library legisl ation. Librarians have tended to support the first view while general theory of public finance opposes a piecemeal approach to the financial support of government services. (1) If the libraries are to be financed from out of the general funds it generates two marked changes. In the first place the powers of the library governing boards will be curtailed and their functions will be advisory. Secondaly the share of the money from the general funds going to finance the libraries depends on the bargaining capacity of the libraries

which is at present weak. (2) One strong reason quoted in support of earmarked taxes is that it yields a definite income. On the other hand, the efforts of the libraries to share from the general fund is usually less and uncertain. (3) One suggestion to overcome the pitfalls of the present property taxes is to impose indirect taxes which the economists advocate(4). Another suggestion is that the locally collected taxes would be converted to a state collected taxes and returned to a state agency for the operation of library services in the entire region. (5)

Another line of argument is that the public library service is as important as the school, the public library should be budgeted on equal levels. (6) While some suggest that 6¼% of education should be spent on libraries(7) others fix the figure as 10% of the expenditure of education. (8) In India consensus appears to be in favour of cess, through there is minority in favour of adhoc grants. (9)

2 IN FAVOUR OF CESS

The levy of cess 'based on the philosophy that the local community should contribute towards the cost of running library service' (10) One reason for the choice of cess appeared to be that the Madras Government while passing the Public Libraries Act of 1948 kept in view the practice prevalent in Great Britain. (11) Another reason is that whenever the

state governments wanted to start new developmental activities the central government advised the former to levy cess on the existing taxes instead of attempting fresh taxes because of the public opposition to such a move.

One strong reason that prompts in choice of cess as against the appropriation from the general revenues of a local or other organ of the government is to keep the finances for the public libraries above the vagaries of the monetary exercises. This attribute is reflected from the statement of Grey(12) 'If proposals are made for new public library services at a time coinciding with the necessary extention of some compulsory service, however desirable that library proposal may be, saving is decided on it at the expense of the development of the library service'.

It is argued that the cess serves as suitable mechanism a lever, by which the minimum amount of money needed to keep the library service at a minimum is fixed. Further cess safeguards the financial independence.(13) It is a bit of direct taxation in order to carve out an equitable share from the revenues of the state raised mainly through indirect taxation. According to the Advisory Committee the levy of cess as required on two grounds. In the first place, the people are inclined to pay for the library service. Secondly, the experience of the states where the cess is levied is encouraging.(14)

3 CESS CRITICISED

The levey of cess has been subject to severe criticism: It is interesting to quotā the observation made by an Indian legislator. Participating in the debates on the public library bill of Madras the levy of the cess was totally opposed. In his words "I am very much against one of the features in the bill; the idea of taxing people for each movement that the government thinks it necessary to introduce, is really antidiluvian". (15) It is further argued that the library cess is not in the interest of the library development because the money thus realised is quite inadequate.(16) Clift and Krotteck while recognising the inadequacy of this source feel that it should be supplemented by other sources as well. (17) In the opinion of a few others, the levy of cess does not suit Indian conditions. (18) Still some others though they do not oppose the levy of the cess feel that it should be well-timed. The argument progresses that in the initial stages of the development of library, the government should bear the full expenditure and at a later stage when the public are involved with the movement the levy of cess will be fruitful. Chakravarty (19) does not see any strength in the levy of cess "What is the proposed cess after all. It is nothing but state revenues raised for a particular purpose to which the general revenuēs also must contribute two or four times. What the cess will yield? This means collection of revenues in two different ways to finance a particular public service".

The argument that the cess is inadequate is further strengthened by the findings of the survey conducted by the Madras Library Association. It revealed that the present library fund made of the proceeds of library cess and an equal state grant are not sufficient to give library service only to half the people (20). The library legislation in Madras and Andhrapradesh bear sufficient testimony to this situation. West Bengal before passing the public libraries act spent the highest percapita amount of 9.3 paise. This should be compared with 6.9 paise spent by Madras and 4 paise spent by A.P. (21)

Commenting on the proposed legislation in Kerala, it has been said that a wider base is necessary because the yield from the cess even at the rate of 10% will not be adequate. Therefore as an alternative it has been suggested that a 100% surcharge on and tax be levied as a library cess. (22)

In the present tax pattern of our country it will not be possible for the local bodies to revise the rate of tax (23) It is because the property tax payer is already carrying the load and he cannot be further taxed. (24) Another problem is that the cess on property taxation benifits rich areas. Under this system the library service has been linked with the wealth of the community. The result is the property tax realised in wealthy district is higher than the backward district. Consequently different communities receive library service according

to their ability to pay rather than according to the needs(25) Property tax has been made the basis of library cess. Property tax is not levied in all urban and semi-urban areas in all states. It is felt that the library cess should be collected in all urban and semi urban areas. (26)

Except in Maharashtra and West Bengal where the acts provide for an outright grant, all the other three acts provide for a library cess to be levied. The Andhra Pradesh and Tamilnadu provide for a library cess to be levied as a surcharge on property tax whereas the Mysore act has included surcharge tax on entry of goods in an area for consumption or sale, tax on vehicles and tax on on professions and employment. By doing so the Mysore act has introduced an element of elasticity in its resources.(27).

CONCLUSION

Action is recommended in two directions.

1. While the cess forms major segment of the public library finance steps should be taken to increase the yeild from it. In this direction, the cess can be made more elastic by levying a surcharge on transit of goods, vehicles tax, and professions besides the cess on property tax. All steps should be taken to plug the loopholes that exist in the Municipal and Panchayat Acts which at present do not help to derive the maximum cess. This calls for the amendment of the Acts.

2. Since cess alone is inadequate, it should be supplemented by other sources mostly in the form of grants. While designing the critierion for grants, they should be delinked from the cess. On the other hand rational criteria like the backwardness and population of the district may be taken as the basis for the distribution of grants.

3. Financing of public libraries should be the responsibility of the state. But the local and Central Governments should also be involved in this venture.

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PUBLIC LIBRARY FINANCE IN ANDHRA PRADESH

Syed Ali Hashmi**

1 INTRODUCTION

Public libraries are not new to the Indian scene. They existed, though in isolation, in pre-independence period also. Whether they were established by rulers like Sir Sayaji Rao of Baroda state or by private managements like Hydari circulation library of Hyderabad, they met a common fate, viz. they witnesed away with time. Reason for their disappearance is nothing but lack of patronage. Patronage brings money for maintenance. The philosophy behind library legislation is that public libraries should have regular flow of finances through taxation. Any legislation not guaranting finances required for establishment and maintenance of public libraries is faulty and it needs amendment.

The Andhra Pradesh Public Libraries Act, 1960 is the result of merger of two different Acts, namely, Madras Public Libraries Act, 1948 and the Hyderabad Public Libraries Act, 1955 A critical examination of the Andhra Act reveals that the financial resources laid down therein are neither adequate nor reliable. This situation has resulted in halting the growth of library service in the state. While people in rural areas

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are languishing for libraries, those living in urban areas are dissatisfied with the standard of service rendered by public libraries. Let us take stock of the situation obtaining in the state of Andhra Pradesh where the library legislation is working for the last twenty five years.

1.1 STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

The latest State Administration Report published by the Department of Public Libraries (1981-82) shows public library service has reached out only 32.48% of the total population of the state, the remaining 67.52% of the population going outside the purview of public libraries. The Andhra Pradesh Public Libraries Rules, 1961 declared every town/village with a population of 5,000 and above as a viable unit for establishment of a Branch Library. Yet, there are 24 towns and 439 villages without a branch library. Besides, there are 52 municipal towns with population cluster of 75,000 and above which do not have additional branch libraries as required in the Rules. The number of viable villages without Book Deposit Centres is much larger. They are 4,254 in number. The percentage of rural population covered by library service is as low as 17.1 The State Administration Report further reveals public libraries are facing acute housing problem. Out of 1667 various categories of libraries working under the Zilla Grandhalaya Samsthas in the state, only 221 have their own building.

The remaining 1446 libraries are housed, rather ill-housed either in rented or rent-free buildings. The book stock is so poor that one book has been provided for 8 or 9 persons. In terms of literate population, 2 to 3 literates have to share one book. Where as the over all per capita expenditure of the state is Rs.345.91, that on public libraries is a meagre 0.56 p. The contribution of the state government to public libraries is just 1.14% of the education budget. The staffing pattern is still worse. All public libraries are not manned by qualified librarians. Out of 794 branch libraries in the state 219 branch libraries are headed by unqualified Record Assistants. The state has maintained a ratio of trained staff to the total population as 1:65,394. One wonders where the scores of graduates in library science turned out by three universities in the state are going. Obviously, they are not inclined to hold positions of low paid Branch Librarians.

1.2 OBSERVATIONS OF THE REVIEW COMMITTEE

The observations made by the Review Committee constituted by the Government of Andhra Pradesh with Sri Gopal Rao Ekbote as its Chairman, for the purpose of reviewing the working of the Library Act, is worth mentioning here. The Committee observed, "Inspite of the fact that the state has been working in the library field under legislation for over 20 years, the growth of library service has not been assured with the result

that rural area, the slum areas in the urban part and the underprivileged sections of the society are practically kept outside the influence of library service".

1.3 THE ROOT CAUSE

The root cause for all these shortfalls is inadequate funding. Let us see what ways and means are provided in the Library Act of the state o to support the public library system.

2 THE FIVE FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Section 21 of the Andhra Pradesh Public Libraries Act, 1960 requires every Zilla Grandhalaya Samstha (the Local Library Authority) maintain a library fund drawing finances from the following five resources:

a) Cess collected under sub section (2) of Section 20;
b) Contributions, gifts and income from endowments;
c) Special grants which the Government may make for any specified purpose;
d) Funds or other amounts collected under any rules or bylaws made under the Act;
e) Government contribution of not less than the amount of the library cess collected.

3 FUNDS ACTUALLY FETCHED

An analysis of the income of the Zilla Grandhalaya Samsthas the Library Act fetched them during a ten-year period is given below.

Year	Sums received by the Z.G.Ss. under various provisions of the Library Act					
	21(2) (a) Lib. Cess	21(2) (b) Cont. Gifts and Endow.	21(2) (c) Spl. grants	21(2) (d) Dpst. Fines Etc.	21(3) Matching Grant Or Salary Grant	Total
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1972-73	16.51	-	6.84	-	25.93	49.28
1973-74	37.29	-	10.71	-	-	48.00
1974-75	47.11	-	14.02	-	52.00	113.13
1975-76	41.64	-	2.05	-	29.19*	72.88
1976-77	54.57	-	1.85	-	68.84*	125.26
1977-78	49.96	1.26	3.15	-	92.32*	146.69
1978-79	56.32	1.15	24.86	-	102.10*	184.43
1979-80	62.15	1.26	10.23	19.51@	97.87*	191.02
1980-81	82.08	4.00	9.48	29.70@	125.35*	250.61
1981-82	86.46	1.28	33.09	11.39@	131.35*	263.57
Total	539.09	8.95	116.28	60.60	724.95	1444.87
Percentage	36.91%	0.62%	8.04%	4.12%	50.31%	100 %

* Salary grants, wages grants sanctioned in lieu of matching grants.

@ Deposits of refundable nature.

4. RELIABILITY OF THE RESOURCES

Out of the five financial resources laid down in the Act, it may be observed that, income provided under section 21(2)(b), i.e. contributions, gifts and income from endowment, is negligible. It forms only 0.62% of the total income. The income under this provision is indefinite too. It may be seen that the next source of income under section 21(2)(c), i.e. special grants from the government is irregular and uncertain, besides being inadequate. The income under section 21(2)(d) is of refundable nature and hence it should not actually form part of the income of the Zilla Grandhalaya Samsthas. Therefore, the major sources of finance supplied by the Library Act are only two:

i) Library Cess amounting to 36.91% of the total income;

ii) Matching contribution by the Government under Section 21(3) of the Act or salary grants, including wages grants, pension, gratiuity grants, etc. sanctioned in lieu of matching grants and amounting to 50.31% of the total income.

5. THE SALARY GRANTS-ADEQUACY AND RELIABILITY

It is needless to say that the salary grants sanctioned by the Government are altogether spent on staff. The salary bill of the staff consumes a part of library cess too because the salary grants sanctioned by the Government in a year are based on the audited figures of expenditure incurred in the previous year and the expenditure on salaries grows year after

year. Following table shows the actual expenditure incurred by the Zilla Grandhalaya Samsthas on payment of salaries and reimbursements received from the Government by way of salary grants.

Year	Actual expenditure incurred by the Z.G.Sc. on pay and allowances, pension etc.	Salary grants sanctioned by the Government	Expenditure incurred over and above the salary grants
	(Number in Lakhs)		
1977-78	92.42	80.60	1.82
1978-79	96.85	102.10	-
1979-80	107.84	112.48	-
1980-81	136.04	125.35	10.69
1981-82	154.53	131.35	22.18
Total	587.68	551.88	34.69

It is obvious that the excess expenditure on salaries and wages is met from the library cess collections of the respective Zilla Grandhalaya Samsthas.

6 THE WAGES GRANTS

The G.O. that promised payment of wages to the contingent staff of the Zilla Grandhalaya Samsthas imposed ceiling saying the Zilla Grandhalaya Samasthas whose income by way of cess collection exceeds Rs.2.00 lakhs, will receive only

10% of their cess collection as wages grants. Besides, the expenditure on T.A. to the establishment and non-officials is totally the concern of the Zilla Grandhalaya Samsthas. Government does not share this expenditure. The following table shows the expenditure on wages and T.A. incurred by the Zilla Grandhalaya Samsthas and the wages grants received by them from the Government during the five year period.

Year	Expenditure on wages and T.A.	Wages grants sanctioned by the Govt.	Excess expenditure incurred by the Z.G.Ss.
1977-78	10.22	-	10.22
1978-79	10.68	6.36	4.32
1979-80	11.38	3.53	7.85
1980-81	13.54	8.82	4.72
1981-82	15.07	6.05	9.02
Total	61.89	24.76	36.13

The above table shows that while the wages bill has increased, the grant from the Government has decreased. It also shows that the Zilla Grandhalaya Samsthas are getting only 50% of their expenditure on wages and T.A. reimbursed by the Government. Obviously, the other 50% of the expenditure is met from the cess collections. It may be mentioned that while taking up the responsibility of payment of salaries of the staff, government

in G.O.Ms. No.915 Edn. dated 29-7-1985 expressed that salary grants were sanctioned so that the Zilla Grandhalaya Samasthas might spend the library cess on purchase of books. This purpose is not fulfilled in practice owing to the fact that grants are neither adequate nor timely.

7 THE LIBRARY CESS

We have examined the adequacy and reliability of the first major source of income in para 5 and 6 above. Let us take stock of second major source i.e. the library cess. Since the special grants from the Government are uncertain, the Zilla Grandhalaya Samsthas depend entirely on the cess collections raised by the local bodies under their jurisdiction. Experience has shown that majority of the local bodies are defaulters in the matter of collection and remittance of library cess. In Medak district out of 831 Gram Panchayats 702 were defaulters during the year 1984-85. The list of defaulters includes a Municipal Council also. The annual report of the City Grandhalaya Samstha, Hyderabad for 1982-83 shows even the Municipal Corporation owes a sum of Rs.24,52,178.28 towards arrears of library cess for the period from 1975-76 to 1978-79. This is the amount of library cess that the Corporation collected from the property owners in the name of the local library authority but failed to remit to the accounts of the library authority. No fool proof method has been devised yet to get the cess collected by the local

bodies remitted to the accounts of the local library authority concerned. The library cess collected by the non-notified gram panchayats in the districts goes unreported. Even the Audit reports of the panchayats are silent about it. Again, the actual collection of library cess by the local bodies, especially the village panchayats is much less than the demand assessed on the house tax because the latter is not collected by the panchayats regularly. The Surpanchas are afraid they become unpopular if they collect house tax from the villagers. The house ~~tax~~ tax falling in arrears for three years is written off. The library cess is also lost with the house tax.

8. TAPPING OTHER SOURCES

The foregoing paras indicate that the Library Act of Andhra Pradesh has not been able to secure adequate finances for public libraries. As a result of this spread of library service has been halted on one hand and the standard of libraries now functioning lowered on the other. Surely, this is not the intention of legislation. Although finance alone is not enough to improve library service, yet experience shows as the finance grow other things follows. There is, therefore, need to tap sources other than those provided in the present Library Act of the state.

8.1 THE INDISPENSABLE LIBRARY RATE

The library cess is the symbol of democratic character of a public library which is in essence an institution of the public, for the public and hence it should be financed by the public. The 1850 Library Act of England carried the provisio for levy of library cess on property tax. But the 1964 Act dispensed with it suggesting that public libraries be totally funded by the local bodies governing public libraries. The West Bengal Public Libraries Act in India, which is the latest among the Library Acts in the country, has also omitted levy of library cess, placing the entire responsibility of establishment and maintenance of public libraries on the state government. But in order to ensure autonomy of the local library authorities and maintain their public character, it is necessary that they continue to levy library cess. Moreover, levy of library cess will relieve the state government from financial burden. Publi libraries will also be saved of austerity measures adopted by the state governments from time to time. It is in the interest of both the Government and the local library authorities that the levy of library cess should continue.

8.11 ROB PETER, PAY TO PAUL POLICY

We have seen that there is no escape from the levy of library cess. The question to be considered is not whether

people should be taxed. It is, who should be taxed? At present, property tax alone is the tax base in the state. This is faulty in itself. The tax collection is confined to urban areas. Rural people contribute a little in this respect. Yet, the Zilla Grandhalaya Samsthas are running their libraries in rural areas too. Again, in urban areas also non-property owners go tax free and there is no bar on their using the local public library. The Atlanta Public Library, Atlanta, U.S.A. demands property tax receipt to register a borrower. Such practice is not possible in India since the have-notes here out number the haves. Ranganathan suggested constitution of separate local library authority for large urban areas. Andhra Pradesh has not followed this advise. The Zilla Grandhalaya Samsthas here are practicing the principle, "Rob Peter and pay to Paul" This practice should be minimised, if not stopped altogether. Government should adopt the multiple-based levy of library cess suggested by the Ekbote Committee.

8.12 MULTIPLE-BASED LIBRARY CESS

The Ekbote Committee recommended in addition to 8 paise on property tax, 6 paise on sales tax, land revenue and vehicle tax. It is desirable to add stamps and registration to the list. Let us see now public library finances are boosted if library cess is collected as surcharges on all these taxes.

Tax Head	Actual collection of the tax o for 1982-83 in A.P. (Rs.in Hundreds)	Probable library cess @ 6 paise per rupee as surcharge (Rupees in Hundreds)
Land Revenue	25,62,281	1,53,736
Sales Tax	401,83,119	24,11,286
Vehicle Tax	64,34,659	3,86,079
Stamps and Registration	44,48,464	2,66,907
TTotal	536,33,521	32,18,010

The probable amount of library cess mentioned in the table above is roughly 10% of the state education budget. Since public libraries form part and parcel of the educational system of a country, it is important to compare public library budget with the education budget. Kothari Commission suggested Universities should spend 10% of their budget on libraries. The state government should also think in terms of 10% of its education budget on public libraries. If they cannot spare from their existing budget, they should raise this amount from the taxes as said above.

8.13 MODE OF REMITTANCE

The present system of remittance of library cess is not delivering goods. The bottlenecks in realising library cess have been mentioned in para 7 above. The procedure

prescribed in the Kerala Public Libraries Bill, 1971 appears to be best suited in the circumstances. Section 23(2) and 23(3) of the Kerala Bill are progressive in the matter of remittance of library cess when compared to the Andhra Act. This provision of the Kerala Bill demands deduction of probable amount of cess from the grants payable to the local bodies responsible for collection and in the event of shortfall the differences be deemed to have been loaned to the local body by the Government.

As regards remittance of the cess collected on land revenue, the sales tax, the vehicle tax and the Registration and stamps, Government should transfer to the library fund of each district 6% of the revenue collected in that district on the said items. Since collection of library cess is entrusted to the Government machinery of the Department concerned, the amount of library cess on these taxes should be deemed to have been collected.

8.2 GRANTS FROM THE STATE GOVERNMENT

Library cess alone cannot support the public library system. Government has to appropriate grants. Section 21(3) of the present library Act in Andhra Pradesh requires the state government contribute a sum not less than the amount of library cess collected. In the year 1975 Government switched over to the salary grants from matching grants. The Zilla Grandhalaya Samsthas are not at loss by this change. They

have received Rs.125.43 lakhs towards salary grants as against total cess collection of Rs.36.46 lakhs only during the year 1981-82. Nevertheless, this blessing is not unmixed. The same G.O. which ordered payment of salary grants in lieu of matching grants banned creation of new posts under the Zilla Grandhalaya Samsthas. Thus expansion of library service has been practically checked. It is learnt similar situation is faced in Karnataka too where the expenditure on salaries of the staff of public libraries is met from the consolidated fund of the state.

8.21 SALARY GRANTS NO SOLUTION

Sanction of salary grants in Andhra Pradesh has, no doubt, eased the situation but not solved the problem. The Zilla Grandhalaya Samsthas whose cess-collection is not enough to meet the excess expenditure on salaries cannot wait until the excess is reimbursed later next year. Again, payment of pension, gratuity and other benefits to the retired or deceased employees' families, poses a problem to the poor Zilla Grandhalaya Samsthas. These problems are solved only when the employees are declared as government servants and their salaries paid from the consolidated fund of the state. This will incur no extra expenditure to the Government. The employees will get their benefits in time. The Zilla Grandhalaya Samsthas will be free to utilise cess collections on items of actual library service. The salaries and other benefits paid by the state

government to the employees of the Zilla Grandhalaya Samasthas can be treated as contribution under section 21(3) of the Act.

8.22 SHIFTING THE RESPONSIBILITY

The problem now remains how to counter the tendency of the state governments to ban employment of library staff in order to save expenditure on their salaries. The solution lies in shifting the responsibility of providing library service from the Zilla Grandhalaya Samsthas to the state government. Section 9(3) of the present Act holds the Zilla Grandhalaya Samasthas responsible for providing library service in areas under their jurisdiction. This is ridiculous in the present circumstances. It needs to be deleted and a new section, Section 9-A added, instead as follows: "9-A. It shall be the duty of the state government to provide library service in the area of each Zilla Grandhalaya Samstha in accordance with the library development plan".

The question arises what will be the sanction in the Act for the Zilla Grandhalaya Samsthas not working towards spread of library service inspite of adequate financial resources. The answer is power vested in the state government under section 19 of the Act is enough to make the Zilla Grandhalaya Samsthas function up.

8.3 GRANTS FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

Government of India is spending sizeable portion of its budget on adult education and informal education. However, the Union Government has not realised the role of public libraries in promoting adult education, the informal education and the continuing education. Public libraries have no place in the Central Government sponsored schemes like, National Rural Employment Project or the Landless poor employment project. While school buildings in rural areas are taken up under the said schemes, library buildings are excluded. A sum of Rs.3.5 lakhs was sanctioned by the District Development of Medak District in Andhra Pradesh for construction of village library building in 1984-85 but the Government in Panchayat Raj Department issued instructions to the Collector to stop works of library buildings, on plea that construction work of primary school buildings was huge. The purpose of the said Central Projects is in essence to provide employment to the rural poor and landless people. It is therefore immaterial whether the funds sanctioned under these Projects are utilised on school buildings or library buildings. But the policy of excluding public libraries altogether is unrealistic. It is necessary that the Government of India earmarks certain percentage of their budget, say 10% of the education budget on public libraries also. The Government of India should be persued to enforce legislation at Central level appropriating grants to public libraries working

in the constituent states, for the purpose of construction of buildings and purchase of modern equipment. The legislation can be drafted on the lines of the Library Service and Construction Act, 1956 of the United States of America.

8.4 GRANTS FROM THE LOCAL BODIES

The local authorities owe to the people living under their jurisdiction the facility for information and knowledge. When information needs of the people are fulfilled by another adhoc body, it is the duty of that local authority to contribute to this cause. As suggested by the Ekbote Committee 1½% of the budget of the local bodies falling under the jurisdiction of the Zilla Grandhalaya Samsthas should be paid. This will augment the resources of the latter and enable them render effective library service.

9 CONCLUSION

The state governments, or the Union government for that matter, have not realised the inevitability of public library service in the country. It will therefore be futile to expect them apart with portions of their existing budgets for improvement of public library service. They will, however, not mind raising funds through appropriate taxation. It is therefore necessary to tap sources other than property tax to levy library cess. The library cess collected as surcharge on land revenue,

the vehicle tax, the sales tax and the Registration and Stamps will swell the sources of finance of the Zilla Grandhalaya Samsthas in the state and the latter will not only be able to maintain the existing libraries but also expand library service to every nook and corner of the state. The state government should persue the Government of India appropriate grants to the Zilla Grandhalaya Samsthas in the state direct, on the lines of library services and Construction Act, 1956 of the United States of America.

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APPENDIX

STATISTICS EVALUATING LIBRARY SERVICE IN ANDHRA PRADESH

A. COVERAGE:

1. Percentage of population covered by public libraries in the state (Govt. + Zilla Grandhalaya Samstha)	
i. Of Total Population	32.48%
ii. Of literate population	54.12%
2. Average population for which a library unit is opened now	
i. Total	141.32 Lakhs
ii. Literate	57.86
3. Average population for which a library unit is to be opened as per APPL Rules 1961	
DCL	0.50 Lakhs
Branch Libraries	0.50 Lakhs
B.D.Cs.	0.01 Lakhs
4. No. of viable towns without Branch Library	52
5. No. of viable villages without a Branch Library	439
6. No. of viable villages without a B.D. C.	8,924
7. No. of Municipal cities/Towns agglomeratious with population 75,000 and above where additional Branch Library is to be opened under APPL Rules 1961	70
8. Percentage of rural population covered	17.1

B. BUILDINGS

1. No. of Zilla Grandhalaya Samstha Libraries in the State

i. District Central Libraries	23
ii. Branch Libraries	794
iii. Village libraries	258
iv. Book Deposit Centres	592
Total:	1,667

1320

2. No.of Libraries housed in own buildings

i. District Central Libraries	16
ii. Branch Libraries	181
iii. Village Libraries	24
iv. Book Deposit Centres	-
Total:	221

3. No.of libraries without library building of their own:

i. District Central Libraries	7
ii. Branch Libraries	613
iii. Village Libraries	234
iv Book Deposit Centres	592
Total	1,446

C. BOOK STOCK IN LIBRARIES

1.Book Stock

i. District Central Libraries	27,763
ii. Branch Libraries	6,563

2.Percapita book stock (Zilla Grandhalaya Samstha + Government libraries)

i. Total population	0.12
ii. Literate population	0.41

D. EXPENDITURE ON PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICE

1.Per capita expenditure of the state with reference to total budget 345.91

2.Per capita expenditure on education

i. with reference to total population	49.30
ii. with reference to literate population	164.63

3. Per Capita expenditure on public libraries	
i. with reference to total population	0.56
ii. with reference to literate population	1.89
4. Percentage of state library budget shared by	
i. Plan budget	0.16
ii. Non-plan budget	99.84
5. Ratio of state library budget to education budget	1.14:100
6. Percentage of expenditure incurred by Zilla Grandhalaya Samsthas library budget on	
i. Reading material	21.43%
ii. Salaries	59.57%

E. LIBRARY USAGE

1. Readers, per capita with reference to	
i. Total population	0.54
ii. Literate Population	1.81
2. Registered borrowers per capita with reference to	
i. Total population	0.008
ii. Literate population	0.02
3. Books used per capita with reference to	
i. Total population	0.31
ii. Literate population	1.03

F. STAFF

1.	Qualified staff heading branch libraries	
	i. Degree / Diploma holders	48
	ii. Certificate holders	501
2.	Branch libraries headed by Record Assistants with certificate in Library Science qualifications	25
3.	Branch Libraries headed by Record Assistants without any qualifications	219
4.	Percentage of branch libraries headed by non professional Record Assistants	28%
5.	Ratio of trained personnel to total population	1:65,304

AUGMENTING THE RESOURCES OF ZILLA GRANDHALAYA SAMSTHAS FOR IMPROVEMENT OF LIBRARY SERVICE

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Bentham has, in his "Principles of Legislation", [1] stated that a good legislation gives the greatest happiness to the greatest number of persons in the society. All welfare legislations satisfy this maxim. Library legislation is a WELFARE LEGISLATION. In India, for the first time, with the untiring efforts of Dr.Ranganathan a legislation in the composite Madras State under the style of "Madras Public Libraries Act, 1948" was placed on the statute book, with a view to establishing and systematising the public libraries in the State. This Act, inter alia, regulates the channel of financial inflow into the hands of the Local Library Authorities (as they were then called) which had been created-one for each Revenue District for the development of libraries in their juridiction . Each Revenue District was the unit for a Local Library Authority to spread the Library Service in its area. The members were elected by a process of election and also nomination by the government. [2]The Local Library Authorities were entrusted with the power of levying Library Cess at six

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1. Bentham's Principles of Legislation
2. Madras Public Libraries Rules, 1948

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pies (i.e. the present 3 paise) on each whole rupee of the property tax levied by the panchayats and Municipalities. The Local bodies shall collect the library cess so levied along with the property tax and remit the same to the Local Library Authorities. The Government sanctioned a matching amount as contribution to the Local Library Authorities. The cess collection with the matching contribution formed the library fund. The Local Library Authorities had to open libraries i.e. Branch Libraries for each town with a population between 5,000 and 50,000 and delivery stations for each village with a population between o1,000 and 5,000. The Local Library Authorities had to meet the expenditure on the maintenance of libraries under their control from the funds contributed for this purpose. The Madras Public Libraries Act, 1948 not only regulated the flow of funds into the library fund, but also helped the systematic growth of the libraries in the province.

The erst-while Andhra State was the first state formed on Linguistic basis by ceding the Telugu speaking districts from the then Madras State in 1953. By then the Madras Public Libraries Act, 1948 was implemented and the provisions were in existence in the Districts carved out as Andhra State.

The States were reorganised on linguistic basis in 1956 and consequently the enlarged Andhra Pradesh was formed comprising the 11 Andhra Districts and the 9 Telangana Districts.

Due to the efforts of eminent personalities like Sri Gopal Rao Ekbote and others, the Hyderabad Public Libraries Act was placed on the statute book in the year 1955. But before the provisions of the said Act could be implemented in the State, the Andhra Pradesh was formed by merging the Telugu speaking districts of the State with that of the erstwhile A Andhra State.

On account of this merger, an anomalous situation arose. The provisions of the Madras Public Libraries Act, 1948 were applicable to the Districts of erstwhile Andhra State and the provisions of the Hyderabad Public Libraries Act, 1955 were applicable to the District ceded by erstwhile Hyderabad State and merged with Andhra Pradesh.

In order to remove the anamoly and also the inconsistencies, uncertainties and gaps found during the implementation of the provisions of the Madras Public Libraries Act, 1948, it was necessary to amalgamate two acts into one, besides suggesting necessary provisions, wherever anomalies were found, which will be applicable throughout the State. The result of this thinking was the addition of the Andhra Pradesh Public Libraries Act on the statute book in 1960.

There was no change in the provisions of the new Act relating to the funding of Zilla Grandhalaya Samsthas.[3] The Act envisages the constitution of the library fund for the Local Library Authorities by the Cess collected and remitted by the Local bodies at the rate of 4 paise on every rupee of property tax collected and remitted to the Zilla Grandhalaya Samasthas with an equivalent contribution as grant by the Government.

The Zilla Grandhalaya Samasthas were frequently reporting to the Authorities that the cess collected were not being remitted to the Zilla Grandhalaya Samasthas promptly.

They were complaining that the Gram Panchayats were not collecting the cess as surcharge on property tax and thereby the Zilla Grandhalaya Samsthas were deprived of the income. The Panchayats on some consideration or the other have been levying only 99 paise as property tax which has not been attracting the levy of library cess. By not making it a whole rupee in their levying, they have been defeating the provisions of the Act. Coupled with this, the Panchayats are also not remitting the property tax collected by them. Unless the cess collected by them is received into the fund of the Zilla Grandhalaya Samsthas and certified by the Local Fund Accounts

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3. Local Library Authorities was redesignated as Zilla Grandhalaya Samsthas by amending the Act in 1969.

as to the amount of the cess collected by the Zilla Grandhalaya Samasthas it will not attract the equivalent contribution from the Government. On account of these difficulties the Zilla Grandhalaya Samasthas could not implement fully the provisions of the Act relating to the establishment and organisation of libraries in their respective jurisdiction. The financial position of the Zilla Grandhalaya Samasthas has worsened year after year, on account of the non-remittance of the cess collected by the local bodies. Some big municipalities have collected the cess but did not remit it to the funds of Zilla Grandhalaya Samasthas.

Some Municipalities have even gone to the extent of demanding a share, out of the cess collected as a charge for collecting it. Though provisions of the Act are categorical with regard to the collection and remittance of the cess, yet with a view to holding back and using the funds for their own purpose, they raise frivolous objections. As years rolled on in correspondence, the experience revealed that it was not possible to assess the amount of the cess collected by them. On many occasions a stand had to be taken to riggle out of the situation, discarding their own interest, Zilla Grandhalaya Samasthas agreed to the figures supplied by the local bodies. Thus the Zilla Grandhalaya Samasthas have been sustaining a triple loss

1. The short collection of the cess by levying property tax i.e. not a whole rupee;
2. By not remitting in full the cess collected;
3. By losing the matching grant to that extent (before 1975).

The Andhra Pradesh Public Libraries Act, 1960 did not contemplate any other source of income to the Zilla Grandhalaya Samasthas, except the cess collected with an equal amount as matching grant.

The escalation of prices of books and periodicals coupled with the raise in the establishment costs made it difficult for the Zilla Grandhalaya Samasthas to maintain the existing libraries, leave alone, the establishment of new libraries in order to cover a larger area and also to provide facilities for continuing education of the neo-literates in rural areas.

7 In order to save the Zilla Grandhalaya Samasthas from the cripling condition, the Government accepted the responsibility for payment of the salaries of the staff of the Zilla Grandhalaya Samasthas in lieu of matching grant, simultaneously imposing a ban on creation of new posts and opening of new Branch Libraries in order to restrict the financial commitment.[4] Even this action has not resulted in any concrete

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4. G.O.Ms.No.915 Edn. 29-7-1975

improvement of the financial condition of the Zilla Grandhalaya Samasthas on account of which the Zilla Grandhalaya Samasthas are not effectively rendering library service. The Government therefore raised the rate of cess from 4 paise to 6 paise and from 6 paise to 8 paise for improving the financial position of the Zilla Grandhalaya Samasthas but unfortunately the Local Bodies are not collecting the cess at the enhanced rate and thereby depriving the Zilla Grandhalaya Samasthas from augmenting their resources.[5]

The Act has been inforce for 25 years. Efflux of time, growth of libraries and various other related complexities have made it necessary to take a second look at the provisions of the Act. This demand was voiced at the two State level conferences held in 1972 and 1974. Pursuaded by the need for reviewing the working of the Act, the Government of Andhra Pradesh appointed a committee to review the working of the Andhra Pradesh Libraries Act, 1960 and to suggest amendments to the Act, wherever necessary to the existing provisions and incorporate new provisions in the Act and the rules framed thereunder.[6] The Committee has suggested inter alia the following for the improvement of the financial resources of the Zilla Grandhalaya Samasthas, since the present practice

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5. G.O.Ms.No.915 Edn. and 1217 Edn. dt.29.7.1975 and 28.10.81 respectively ordering the raise of the cess collection from 6 paise to 8 paise.
6. G.O.Ms.No.198 dt.25-2-76, committee was appointed by the Govt. of A.P. to review the working of the APPL Act 1960.

of collecting cess with equivalent matching contribution is un-scientific and not based on the pattern of expenditure of library service which is to be determined on the basis of literate population, the percentage of annual population growth among the literates and the number of pupils of pre-primary, primary, secondary schools and colleges and the standards of library service prescribed.[7]

In the present phase of the library movement, finance is the main bottleneck which is the root cause for the poor library service. The Ekbote Committee dealt with this vital problem in detail and made the following recommendations for augmenting the financial resources for the present library system.

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7. The terms of the references were:
   i. The Committee shall examine the provisions of the A.P.P.L.Act.1960 and Rules thereunder ;
   ii. The Committee shall also suggest suitable new provisions for incorporation in this Act.
   iii. The Committee shall go into the administration of the Act and the Rules and point out the bottlenecks in implementing them and suggest remedial measures for the smooth working of the Act and Rules.

8The Recommendations of the Committee are as follows:-

1. The Government should maintain a seperate fund called the State Library Fund to meet the expenditure for development of Library Services in the State.

2. A cess at the rate of six paise per rupee on the following taxes be levied (collected by the agencies which collect the tax and be remitted to the State Library Fund apart from the cess collected on property tax which is being remitted to the respective Zilla Grandhalaya Samasthas' Library Fund

   1. Sales Tax
   2. Vehicle Tax
   3. Land Revenue

3. In addition to the matching grant provided in Section 21(3) of the Act, the Government should contribute an amount not less than the total amount of cess collected on the above said three taxes or 10% of the education budget whichever is higher. The Government contribution on the cess collected on sales tax vehicle tax and land revenue should be credited to the State Library Fund. The grant should be increased as and when new areas areto be covered by the library service.

4. The Central Government should contribute a certain percentage of their education budget for the development of libraries in the country and distribute the same equitably amongst all the States.

5. The Local bodies, that is to say, the Municipal corporations, the Municipalities; Zilla Parishads, Panchayat Samithis and Village Panchayats should contribute an amount not less than 1½% of the total budget to the Zilla Grandhalaya Samastha Library fund in whose district these Local Bodies function.

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8. Recommendations from 56 to 60 except 59 of the Ekbote Committee appointed in 1976 by the Government to review the working of A.P.P.L. Act, 1960.

6. The cess collected on the property tax as well as the land revenue, sales tax and vehicle tax should be deducted by the Government at their source and remitted tothe Library Funds of the each district or the State Library Fund as the case may be. A provision on the lines for Kerala Bill be enacted to that effect in our Act.

The Library conferences have been demanding 6% of the annual budget for providing library services. As already stated earlier, the financial position of Zilla Grandhalaya Samasthas is too discouraging; consequently it has not been possible for the Zilla Grandhalaya Samasthas to expand library services to the new areas in the State (nay, the effective and efficient library service with the present position). It is therefore, necessary besides augmenting the resources, to prepare a ten-year plan for the expansion and the development of library service methodically indicating therein as to how to meet the expenditure involved in such expansion and development on the lines prepared by the [9] Ecuador's Government and rigorously pursue to achieve the targets in each year.

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9. The report of Eknote Committee appointed in the year 1976 by A.P.Government to review working of the A.P.P.L. Act. 1960 - Page 50. 4% of Ecuador's education budget which amount 8.8.millions Eucer could finance the average and annual cost of ten years plan prepared for the meeting of the experts on the planning of the National Library Service in the Latin America.

Adult Education and the Libraries should go hand in hand. The efforts of imparting massive adult education become in-vain if the neo-literates are not encouraged to use the library for continuing education. The importance of establishing new libraries and to develop the existing libraries to meet the needs of neo-literates also need no emphasis. Many states in this country have not placed the library legislation on their statute books. The library development in those states is not systematic because the expansion and organisation of libraries has not been entrusted to any body constituted under the provision of an enactment. Even in those states, in this country where there are library legislations, the authorities, entrusted with the expansion of library services is crippled with lack of suffiaient resources.

It is felt that in the changed circumstances the recommendation of the Ekbote Committee, to allot certain percentage of the direct taxes enumerated above or 10% of the education budget have no relevance. The only alternative left is to seek a proposition whereby the funds will perculate to the fund of Zilla Grandhalaya Samasthas on the lines of the allotment of funds made to the Education Budget. However since the above proposition looks to be very vogue, the allotment of funds for the development of libraries may be made on the following criteria taking into consideration.

1. Requirement of the number of Neo-literate coming out of the Adult Education Centres.

2. The requirement of the number of children going to Elementary Schools.

3. The requirement of the number of children going to the secondary schools.

4. The requirement of the number of students going to the college each year.

5. The requirement of number of Research Scholars and the Post Graduate Students studying in the Universities.

6. The requirement of the General readers.

7. The requirement of the people living in towns, villages not yet covered already according to the A.P.P.L. Rules 1961.

The total requirement of the library service should be arrived at on the basis of the average requirement of library service, and then the funds have to be provided for expansion and development of libraries.

The idea is to evolve a suitable formula based on the total number of readers in the above categories multiplied by the average cost per reader.

The above propositions are placed before this August House for a thorough discussion and for suggesting suitable measures for augmenting the resources for the library system in the State.

PUBLIC LIBRARY FINANCES IN KERALA.

M.N. Ramakrishnan*
G.Devarajan**

1. Introduction

A public library is a library provided wholly or partly from public funds, and the use of which is not restricted to any class of persons in the community but is freely available to all. Unesco sets out in the document Unesco Public library manifesto the basic services which public libraries should provide, how they should be provided administered and financed. It also envisages that public libraries should be established and maintained inorder to cater to the needs of the people and that there must be continuous supply of money to run the services smoothly, effectively and responsively. In fact Unesco believes that the Public library is a living force for education, culture and information, and is an essential agent for the fostering of peace and understanding peoples and their nations.

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Public library is considered the nerve centre in the dissemination of information for socio-economic and cultural development of the society t serves. Its role for social change is undisputable. Since, to an extent the social improvement of a society is moulded or influenced by the library it is essential to safeguard its normal and healthy development. But, today, our public libraries are confronted with several problems such as inadequacy of library finance, lack of adequate and quality collection, and lack of integrated network etc which restrict their normal development. Among these problems, the most important one is the lack of adequate library finance. The study is confined to this crucial point by examining the state of finances of Kerala.

2. Importance of finance.

Finance plays a significant role in the organisation and administration of a library. A library has to purchase documents, maintain the building, employ trained staff and provide necessary services to the clientele. For all these adequate finance is required. The importance of finance according to D.P.Mishra is "Finances are the sine-qua-non of every organized human endeavour and success in all planned public projects is often proportionate as much to the amount of finances made available as to the wise manner in whcih

they are put to use. Education, of all public projects, is one which although indirectly affects the growth and continuity of community life." In the context of a library it should be safeguarded with adequate finances, otherwise it can't discharge its obligations and guarantee the continuity of proper and adequate service to the clientele.

3. Financial Provisions in the various State Library acts

Like any other public institution, a public library must be based on sound financial foundations. According to the American Library Association Committee on Post War planning "Public library income should have a sound basis in law. Sources of revenue should be assured, within reasonable limits, and final authority for determining the annual library income should be vested in the legislative body" of the state in which it is located. Here an attempt is made to bring out the financial provisions contained in the different public library Acts in Indian States.

In India only 5 states have enacted libarary legislation so far which provides sound financial foundations. The Madras Public Library Act (1948) empowers local Library Authorities to levy in their areas a library cess in the form of surcharge on the property tax or housetax. The Government contribution to the Library

Fund to all Local Library Authorities except that of the city of Madras, is fixed at a sum not less than that collected as library cess. The Andhra Pradesh Public library Act(1960) envisages a library cess to be levied at a mimimum of 4 paise and a maximum of 8 paise as surcharge on immovable properties. Under the Mysore Public Library Act (1965) Library cess is collected as surcharge on (1) tax on profession, trades, . The rate of subcharge is 3 paise for every rupee of the tax levied. The State Governmentprovides as grant of anamount equal to the surcharge collected. The salaries of the library staff are met out of the consolidated fund of the state. This enables the public library system in the state to utilize the entire amount collected as library cess and the grant by the Government exclusively for purchasing books and periodicals and providing essential services. The financial provision in theMaharashtra public Library Act (1967) envisages no library cess. A minimum of Rs.25,00,000 is given to the library fund every year bby the government as grants. The financial provision in the West Bengal Public library Act (1979) also puts no burden on people by impossing library cess on movalbe or immovable properties.

In Kerala a number of bills were introduced in the Assembly in different periods, 1960,1971,1974, and 1977.

All these draft bills envisage library cess as surcharge on immovable properties. But, another draft bill is now under the consideration of the State Government which is a more progressive on in relation to finance than the earlier draft bills. The financial provision in this bill is that the Government may make every year a grant to the proposed State Library Board a sum which shall not be less than 0.5% and not more than 1% of the amount alloted for education in the state budget for every year.

Considering the financial provisions in the various Acts i.e. from the Madras Public Library Act to the present proposed draft bill which is now under the consideration of the Government of Kerala, we can observe a transition from Acts empowering library cess to Acts whcih do not provide for the levy of library cess. It is presumed that today the Governments have begun to recognize public library service like other public services which need not levy tak from the people.

4. Present Structure and Sources of finance

Today, there are dif erent kinds of public libraries run under different agencies in Kerala. So it is appropos to analyze the sources of finances in relation to the

different categories of public libraries. There are mainly 4 categories of public libraries functioning in Kerala. They are (a) Libraries run directly by the government (b) Libraries run by the local bodies (c) Libraries affiliated to the Kerala Granthasala Sanghom; and (d) Libraries run under the Local Library Authorities (LLA) in the erstwhile Malabar districts where the Madras Library Act (1948) is still in force.

4.1 Library run directly by the Government

The Trivandrum Public Library (State Central Library) is the oldest public library in India in existence having been established in 1829. It is functioning directly under the Government as alsolitary body which possess a moderate resource allocation. The principal source of income of the Trivandrum public Library is the State grants in the form of plan andnon-plan allocations. Besides, the library receives finances from the follwoing souces.

a. Subscription from members and subscribers

b. Amount recovered for books lost

c. Registration charges

d. Fee for issue of Gazette extracts

e. Sales of publications

f. Miscellaneous

of the sources of finances mentioned in a-f above, the maximum amount is receivedfrom subscription. of course finances received through the above sources (a-f) are not actually the part of the library finance which can be utilized by the library because this amount is to be remitted to the Government account as andwhen it is received by the library. The receipts of the Trivandrum public library for the last 10 years period are given in the •able below:

Table 1: Statement of receipts of the TPA uring 1975-76 to 1984-85

Year	Receipts
1975-76	65,013.42
1976-77	58,898.36
1977-78	75,788.50
1978-79	82,159.31
1979-80	91,459.95
1980-81	1,00,593.43
1981-82	1,04,420.45
1982-83	1,01,035.20
1983-84	1,11,011.70
1984-85	1,11,904.95

From the above table it is clear that there is steady increase in the recipts of the Trivandrum Public Library. This is mainly due to the increase in the numver of subscribers.

The Expenditure of the Trivandrum Public Library comes under two heads: plan and non-plan. Theexpenditure incurred by the Library under the plan and non-plan heads is (i) the recurring expenditure on salaries and other establishment charges, on purchase of books and periodicals, travel etc. and (ii) the non recurring expenditure on purchase of reprographic equipments, on maintenance of building etc. A statement of the total amount spent on recurring and non-recurring charges under plan and non-plan heads in relation to the amount spent on books and periodicals is given in Table No. 2.

STATEMENT OF TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON BOOKS AND PERIODICALS IN RELATION TO THE TOTAL EXPENDITURE

Year	Plan	Non Plan	Total	Expenditure on books and periodicas	%in relation to the total
1975-76	-	507668.00	507668.00	118249.85	23.29
1976-77	-	547865.41	547865.41	122367.78	22.33
1977-78	85838.17	618206.42	704044.59	149968.53	21.30
1978-79	-	753514.13	753514.13	302352.57	40.12
1979-80	24603.30	774676.01	799279.31	295946.28	37.02
1980-81	-	860746.07	860746.07	309993.60	36.01
1981-82	-	958089.66	958089.66	348730.81	36.39
1982-83	-	847580.84	847580.84	108436.70	12.79
1983-84	-	847580.84	847580.84	222228.75	26.21
1984-85	-	1097381.80	1097381.80	310260.55	28.27

From the above table it may be seen that the maximum i.e. 40.12% in relation to the total budget was spent on books and periodicals in the 1978-79 period. The percentage of expenditure on books and periodicals is very low (12.79%) during 1982-83. This is due to the financial crisis faced by the State Government during this period.

4.2. Libraries run by the local bodies

There are libraries run directly under the local bodies like Panchayaths, Municipalities or Corporations and there are also grant-in-aid libraries. These libraries are financed wholly by the local bodies or by the Kerala Granthasala Snaghom. Some of the libraries are benefited by the Raja Ram Mohan Roy Library Foundation in the form of finance as well as in the form of gift of books and library equipments.

4.21 Panchayath Libraries

Panchayaths run their own libraries and grant is provided to certain other libraries which are not owned by the panchayaths. A statement of the amount spent by the Panchayaths is given in the table below.

EXPENDITURE ON BOOKS AND PERIODICALS INCURRED BY THE PANCHAYATH FOR THEIR OWN LIBRARIES AND GRANT IN AID LIBRARIES

Year	No. of	No. of reading	Establish	Amountspent on books and periodicals	Grant to Grantin aid-boos
1979-80	28	1354	600390.55	54324 .61	-
1980-81	416	1339	1175048.57	713518.28	-
1981-82	403	1181	1171630.05	898467.27	424771.53
1982-83	408	1075	1098628.00	1486326.00	350767.00
1983-84	393	1104	1198186.90	961029.16	333819.53

From the above table it is clear that out of the total budget meant for libraries, the lion's share is utilized for the purchase of books and periodicals. This is due to the fact that in Panchayath libraries establishment charges are comparatively low.

4.22 Municipal Libraries

As on today Kerala has 43 muncipalities, 1 township and 3 copporations. Almost all these bodies run libraries. The principal financial sources of these libraries are the grants from the Kerala Granthasala Sanghom. Of course, during 1983-84 period a nominal amount of Rs.31500.00 has been distributed as grants to 4 libraries in Kerala.

4.3 Libraries affiliated to the Kerala Granthasala Sanghom (Grant-in-aid libraries)

There are 4920 libraries as of today (November 1985) affiliated to the Kerala Granthasala Sanghom. Out of these only 3024 have attained the standard of getting grants from the Sanghom. The break-up of 3024 libraries under different grades are given in Table No.4.

LIBRARIES A

NAME OF GRADES AND NUMBERS WHICH GET GRANT FROM THE SANGHOM

Name of grade	Number of libraries
Special Grade	6
A	175
B	398
C	503
D	1147
E	731
F	70
Total	3024

The main sources of finances of these libraries are the grants from the Sanghom, subscriptions and donations received from the public as well as Raja Ram Mohan Roy

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library foundation. The Kerala Granthasalasanghom distributes Government grants to the libraries affiliated to it according to the Grades as shown in Table No.5 below

GRADES OF LIBRARIES AND RATE OF GRANT

Name of Grade	Grant per year. Rs.
Special Grade	8,500.00
A	2,200.00
B	1,250.00
C	1,000.00
D	700.00
E	600.00
F	450.00

The Kerala Granthasala Sanghom distributes grants viz. recurring and non-recurring to the grant-in-aid libraries. Recurring grant is paid for purchase of books and periodicals, librarian's allowance etc. Non-recurring grant is paid for the construction and maintenance of library building.

The recurring grant distributed by the Sanghom from 1975-76 to 1984-85 is given in the table below:

RECURRING GRANT DISTRIBUTED BY THE SANGHOM TO THE GRANTS -IN-AID LIBRARIES FROM 1975-76 TO 1984-85

Year	Amount allotted	Grant distributed
1975-76	1654536.00	1603167.00
1976-77	2438929.75	2422730.66
1977-78	2807826.25	2807826.25
1978-79	2286635.95	2265525.95
1979-80	2498077.47	2480517.15
1980-81	2844604.55	2751699.05
1981-82	3004082.84	2961305.56
1982-83	218163.00	216834.60
1983-84	3489714.00	3342678.00
1984-85	3677479.50	3606260.35

From the above data it is xxxxxxxevident that there is a steady increase of grants year after year. Of course there is a steep fall in the allocation during 1982-83. This may be due to the financial out imposed by the State Government during that period.

The sanghom also distributes non-recurring grants to the affiliated libraries for constructing new library buildings or maintaining existing buildings. A statement of grant paid as non-recurring expenditure is given in the Table below:-

NON-RECURRING GRANT PAID TO THE AFFILIATED LIBRARIES BY THE KERALA GRANTHASALA SANGHOM

Year	Grant Paid Rs.
1975-76	117154.05
1976-77	202109.50
1977-78	138267.00
1978-79	212751.00
1979-80	11461.00
1980-81	150909.00
1981-82	121627.00
1982-83	268436.00
1983-84	121627.00
1984-85	250204.00

4.31 Librarians allowance

Librarians working in the grant-in-aid libraries are getting lonly allowances ehich are nominal. The grant-in-aid libraries give librarian's allowance from the amount alloted as grant by the Sanghom. So the amount set apart for purchase of books and periodica s will be negligible. The rate of librarian's allowance in each grade is given in the Table below:

LIBRARIAN'S ALLOWANCE IN THE DIFFERENT GRADES OF LIBRARIES

Grades	Allowance per year
Special Grade	Scale of Pay
A, B and C	900.00
D	600.00
E, F	360.00

4.4 Libraries run under Local Library Authority (LIA)

There are 6 Local Library Authorities viz.Calicut, Palghat, Cannanore, Malappuram, Wayanad and Kasargod functioning in Kerala. These LLAs are running more than 100 libraries in the erstwhil Malabar District where the Madras Library Act (1948) is still in force. These libraries received library cess in the form of surcharge on property tax collected by the Local bodies from the areas under the jurisdiction of the respective LLAs. But the cess collection is very poor due to the lethargic attitude of the local bodies. For a long time, libraries under LLAs are facing financial difficulties due to the failure in the collection of library cess. In the budget for (1985-86) the State Government has included a sum of Rs.10,30,000 under the plan andnon-plan expenditure of LLAs.

5. Financial Estimation

The success of any institution depends upon the adequate and regular flow of finances. The foundation of proper financing depends upon the current and effective estimation. There are several methods of assessing the financial adequacy of library service. Here per capita method in relation to standards developed in India and abroad are taken for consideration.

5.1 Per Capita Method

Here the amount in the proposed budget (1985-86) set apart for the public library services in Kerala and the total population according to the 1981 census are taken for estimation. According to the 1985-86 budget for public library service a sum of Rs.91,00,700 is set apart for the total population of 2,54,53,680 in Kerala. As per this data the amount spent per head for public library service is only 0.35 paise. The rate of expenditure on literate population (19078440) for public library service is 0.47 paise. The American Library Association proposed a standard per capita amount of $1.5, $2.25 and $3 for 'minimum', 'good' and 'superior service' respectively. The Advisory Committee for libraries (India) calculated 0.63 paise per head of population as the minimum annual expenditure for public library service. Considering all these, the rate of per

capita expenditure in Kerala i.e. 0.35 paise is very low.

6. Suggestions

It is clear to everybody concerned that public library is the most important component for the socio-economic and cultural development of the society at large. But this vital point is forgotten at the time of state and central budgeting. An organized and effective public library service in Kerala has become increasingly necessary due to the newly emerging educational trends like 'distance learning' and open university. Inadequacy of finance is the major hindrance to this. In order to improve the present situation the following suggestions are made:

i. Inorder to overcome the inadequacy of public library finance the enactment of a progressive library Act is necessary.

ii. A public library act may be enacted providing a minimum of 1% of the total budget rather than the minumum of 0.5% and to a maximum of 1% of the educational budget allotment as proposed in the draft bill now under consideration of the Government. The total budget allocation for 1985-86 is Rs.1235,4200000 and therefore Rs.12,3542000 (1%) will be available for public libraries. This amount is the minimum required to run two or three state libraries,

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14 district libraries and several panchayat and other Libraries.

iii. Alternatively, to start with a sum equal to 2%of the Education Budget (Rs.371,0001000) in 1985-86 may to made available which comes to Rs.7,42,16036. Progressively this may be raised to 5% XXXXXXXXXXXX in order to provide a satisfactory service.

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